

THURSDAY
November 19,
2009

The Observer & Eccentric
Newspapers

Volume 45
Number 51

75 CENTS

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WESTLAND OBSERVER

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'American Idol'
runner-up joins
orchestra for
Christmas favorites
Filter - B8



AROUND TOWN

Christmas open house

The Westland Historic Village Park is hosting a Christmas Open House and a visit from Santa Claus from 1-4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 12. The buildings at the park, including the Octagon House, will have period holiday decorations. There will be tours of the Octagon House available. Cookies and hot chocolate will be served and guests can bring their cameras for a photo with Santa Claus.

The Westland Historic Village Park is located on Wayne Road south of Marquette. For more information, call (734) 522-3918.

Memories

The holiday season is upon us and we're asking readers to send us their favorite holiday memories and photos to the *Westland Observer* for the special holiday edition we are planning for Thursday, Dec. 24.

Did you get a favorite gift for Christmas, or do you have a special memory of Hanukkah? Is there a special tradition your family has to make the season merry and bright?

Share those memories with us. Send your items — be sure to include a photo, if you can — to *Westland Observer* Editor Sue Mason at smason@hometownlife.com.

Dear Santa

Santa Claus is waiting by his mailbox for youngsters' gift lists and letters. The *Westland Observer* wants to make sure Santa Claus knows what children would like this Christmas and is asking youngsters to send us letters to him.

We will publish the letters in the newspaper during December before sending them on to the North Pole. The letters should include a snapshot of the letter writer. Send Santa correspondence to smason@hometownlife.com and be sure to put Letter to Santa in the subject line. They can also be mailed to Letters to Santa Claus, c/o Sue Mason, 615 W. Lafayette, Second Level, Detroit, MI 48226.

The *Observer* will publish letters through out the month of December, so don't delay, kids. Get out the Wish Book and start making your lists.

And parents, you can send in your wish lists, too. Santa delivers to all who believe.

Panel proposes school closings, grade changes

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Seven elementary schools, including Hamilton, Jefferson-Barns, Kettering, Lincoln, Madison, Patchin and Vandenburg, would be closed as part of recommendations for reconfiguring Wayne-Westland Community Schools.

The series of recommendations from the 21st Century Schools Committee, which developed the plans, will be pre-

sented to the school board at a 6 p.m. meeting Monday, Nov. 30, at Wayne Memorial High School's Stockmeyer Auditorium.

The committee met as a whole Tuesday evening to go over the recommendations, which include closing seven elementary schools and revamping the elementary and middle school grade configuration.

The committee has been meeting since late June to come up with a

plan to address the district's declining enrollment as well as cut expenditures in the face of shrinking revenue. Its proposal will save the district an estimated \$6 million, but that may not be enough.

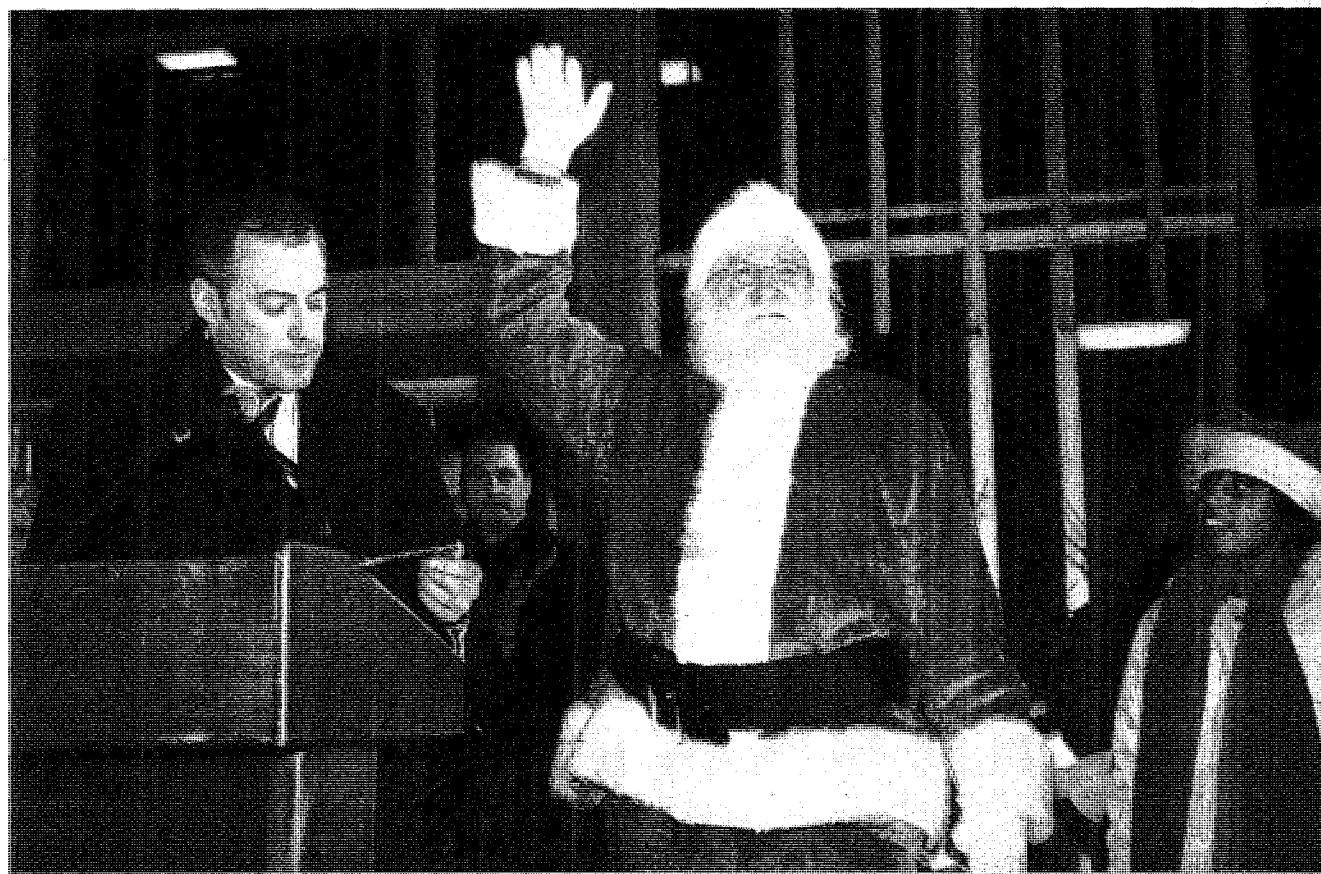
"This isn't just about how to survive the financial crisis, but how we can do better," said consultant Jeff Rahmberg, who has been working with the committee on the proposal. "It's a great opportunity for the district to look at

its program and how it can deliver it better."

The district is projecting its operating deficit for 2009-10 will be close to \$11 million due to a \$292 per-pupil cut in state school aid. But there is the possibility of more cuts by executive order after the first of the year.

"That \$11 million doesn't reflect any anticipated cuts in January," district

Please see **PANEL, A2**



Mayor William Wild presents the key to the City of Westland to Santa Claus Monday before the holidays lights were ceremoniously turned on.

Start the party: Santa arrives in Westland

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Mild temperatures and a lack of snow didn't keep Santa Claus from making his traditional stop at Westland City Hall to help officially turn on the Christmas lights.

A crowd gathered Monday evening in front of City Hall to greet Santa Claus, who received the key to the city from Mayor William Wild. Before the guest of honor arrived, there were carols and stories.

"Are you ready for Christmas? We're not even ready for Thanksgiving at our house," Wild said. "This event has turned into a great holiday tradition in Westland."

Music teacher Jacquese Marcum, daughter of Senior Resources Director Barbara Marcum, sang an

cappella rendition of *Ave Maria* to open the festivities.

Winners of the annual "What Christmas Means to Me" essay contest were announced: winner Jakob Tuttle, 10; first runner-up Riley Benci, 5; and second runner-up Bobby Rozanski. Each youngster received a gift from Wild, then joined the mayor and Santa Claus in ceremonially turning on the Christmas lights. Jakob also read his essay, which said Christmas is a time for two things — Christmas break and family time.

Westland resident Nancy Spinelle read her 2009 holiday story, *The Tale of the Christmas Stockings*. Following that theme, Wild had asked guests to bring clean new socks to be donated to the Salvation Army, whose brass

Please see **SANTA, A2**



While on his way to the podium, Santa Claus got an impromptu hug from Siena Condash.

Planet Fitness has plans to shape things up in Westland

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

There will soon be a new option for getting in shape in Westland as Planet Fitness will fill a vacant former craft store at Warren and Wayne roads.

Planet Fitness recently finalized a lease to take over space that formerly housed Michael's at Westland Crossing Shopping Center. Planet Fitness is scheduled to open in mid-December, the seventh in the chain to open in metro Detroit in the last 18 months.

"Obviously, we're glad to see a business come in and fill one of the big boxes that are available," said Westland Economic Development Director Lori Fodale. "It will really breathe life into that strip center."

City officials had been disappointed earlier this year when plans fell through for an L.A. Fitness on the site of the long-closed Quo Vadis Theater site, just across the parking lot from the new Planet Fitness location.

"It's hard to say but Planet Fitness probably wouldn't have gone in there with L.A. Fitness," said Fodale. "That was disappointing but it's good to have this space filled. Planet Fitness will be a nice addition."

The 25,000-square-foot former retail space will be completely remodeled, said Fodale. Planet Fitness will join Toys R Us and Harbor Freight in the strip center.

Planet Fitness will feature an extensive selection of cardio equipment including treadmills, elliptical trainers, full and lower body arc trainers and stationary bikes, upright and recumbent. Every cardio machine is connected to an entertainment system consist-

Please see **FITNESS, A2**

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GANNETT



Local restaurants to show off their wares at Taste Fest

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

There is still time to sample items from 18 local restaurants at the 11th annual Westland Holiday Taste Fest.

"We get 500-550 people — each year it's a sellout," said Westland Chamber of Commerce President Brookellen Swope. "We're not quite sold out yet."

Tickets are \$25 per person for the strolling supper which will be held 6-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 1, at the Hellenic Cultural Center, 36375 Joy.

New additions to the Holiday Taste Fest include McDonald's, Papa Romano/Mr. Pita and

catering from American Legion Post 32 of Livonia. Joy Manor and Toarmina's Pizza are returning after not participating in 2008.

"It's a great opportunity to try a new restaurant or new items that the restaurants may have added," said Swope. "They come here to show off their new items."

For some restaurants like McDonald's, Swope said people can get a chance to try menu items that they don't usually order.

Beer, wine and cocktails will be available for purchase during the Holiday Taste Fest which will feature music by RC Deejay.

Along with the variety of food to sample, Swope said there will

also be a silent auction and a raffle in which people place tickets into containers for the prizes they'd like to win.

"There themed baskets, automotive items like gas cards, oil changes, a night on the town and multiple restaurant gift cards," said Swope.

The deadline for getting Taste Fest tickets is Wednesday, Nov. 25, at the chamber office.

"People can call and put a hold on tickets if they aren't able to get in here the same day," said Swope.

Call the chamber office at (734) 326-7222 for more information.

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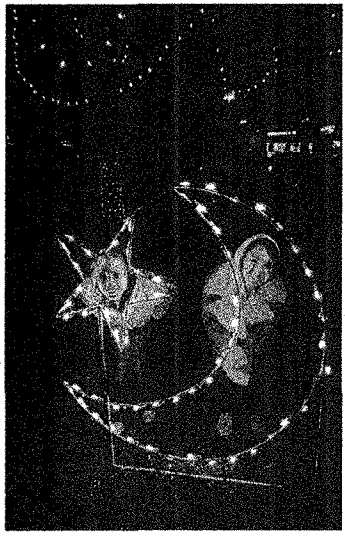
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Sisters Jesse and Jasmine Sanchez take a closer look at the lights while mugging for the camera.

Blood drive

Give the gift of life this Thanksgiving by stopping by Metropolitan Lincoln Mercury, Ford west of Venoy, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 25 to donate blood through the American Red Cross. Donations are traditionally low around the holidays and current supplies may not meet demand.

To schedule an appointment, go online to www.givelife.org. On the web site, it will say Step 1: Find a Blood Drive and it will invite you to enter your zip code or your Sponsor Code. Please

type your Sponsor Code which is: Metropolitan

If you prefer to make an appointment over the phone, call (888) 860-0007.

Used book sale

Stock up on books to read at the Friends of the William P. Faust Library of Westland's used book sale Thursday-Sunday, Nov. 19-22.

Prices will be \$1 for hardcovers, DVDs and CDs, 50 cents for large paperbacks, 25 cents for small paperbacks, videos, cassettes and records and 10 cents for magazines. Reusable green bags also will be for sale at \$2

AROUND WESTLAND

Bowling fund-raiser

The John Glenn High School wrestling program will hold its first bowling fund-raiser Sunday, Nov. 22, at Vision Lanes on Ford in Westland. The cost is \$20 for three games of bowling, shoes, pizza and pop. Registration is at noon, with bowling at 1 p.m. For more information or to register online, visit www.glennwrestling.com. For more information, call Judy at (734) 634-4595.

Talk to Anderson

State Sen. Glenn Anderson (D-Westland) will hold district coffee hours on Monday, Nov. 23

in Livonia and Garden City. No appointment is necessary.

From 9-10 a.m., Anderson will be at the Livonia Civic Park Senior Center, 15218 Farmington Road, Livonia. He moves to the Maplewood Community Center, 31735 Maplewood, Garden City, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Constituents who would like to address an issue with Anderson but are unable to attend may contact him by mail: P.O. Box 30036, Lansing, MI 48933; Phone: Toll-free (866) 262-7306; or e-mail: SenatorAnderson@senate.michigan.gov.

SANTA
FROM PAGE A1

band provided music at the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony.

The St. Damian Elementary School Choir led the sing-along of Christmas carols, ending with *Here Comes Santa Claus* as the Jolly Old Elf arrived aboard a Westland fire engine.

"What a wonderful night. I'm glad to be here. I promise you'll have just a little snow for Christmas — I get too much snow where I live. I get to drive my truck in this weather," Santa told the crowd.

Wild tried to put in a good word about local youngsters before Santa finalizes his naughty and nice lists.

"I know you hear it in all the cities, but the kids of our All-American City are better than in any other city, so they need lots of presents," Wild said.

After the tree lighting, youngsters got a chance to talk to Santa Claus and have refreshments at nearby Fire Station 1.

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FITNESS
FROM PAGE A1

ing of 18 50-inch plasma televisions.

Planet Fitness also offers

a full complement of upper and lower body strength machines, a 30-minute PF Express circuit and tanning booths and massage chairs. In addition, free fitness training is included with all memberships. A certified

fitness trainer is on staff weekdays to assist members with workout programs at no additional charge.

"The demographics in Westland are a perfect match for our business and we're thrilled to have finally con-

cluded a deal here. At \$10 a month, our memberships make it very affordable to join a health club despite the rough economy," said regional manager Art Nichols.

"Planet Fitness is one of the nations hottest franchises

and the former Michael's site will be a perfect location to serve residents from Westland and surrounding communities," added Mayor William Wild.

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PANEL
FROM PAGE A1

Supt. Greg Baracy said.

The committee is recommending that the district close the previously named elementary schools; Marshall and Adams middle schools would become schools for fifth- and sixth- grade students. Stevenson and Franklin would remain as middle schools for seventh- and eighth-graders.

Under the proposal, fifth- and sixth-graders from Edison, P.D. Graham, Hicks, Wildwood and the northern portion of the Walker-Winter attendance area would go on to Marshall, Stevenson and John Glenn High School. Fifth- and sixth-grade students attending Elliott, Hoover, Roosevelt-McGrath, Schweitzer and Taft-Galloway,

as well as the southern portion of the Walker-Winter attendance area, would go to Adams, Franklin and finally Wayne Memorial High School.

Under the proposal, the Oakwood Health Clinic at Lincoln and the mini-clinic at Jefferson-Barns and the Family Resource Center housed at Lincoln would be moved to rooms at Adams on the southern edge of the Norwayne community.

Committee member Susan Nagy expressed concern about the closing of the two Norwayne schools, telling the committee that 90 percent of the children are at-risk students and many of the parents lack transportation to the new school.

"I feel strongly about this," said Nagy, who attended Jefferson-Barns Elementary and has children attending

the school. "You're taking away from those parents who want to be involved because they don't have transportation. By combining the two schools together, it would be within walking distance for everyone."

Questions also were raised about the selection of Marshall and Adams as upper elementary facilities.

Facilities committee member Dave Carpenter told the group that "student capacity was a major deciding factor in selecting the seventh- and eighth-grade schools."

"The seventh-eighth level has a different number of students and the capacity of the schools indicated that was the way to go," he said. "We wanted fifth-sixth to feel like elementary schools. Adams and Marshall have a better feel for fifth-sixth."

Committee chair Tony Spisak added that Stevenson and Franklin "have the feel of a high school."

Deputy Supt. Gary Martin assured committee members that there would be "no significant increase" in busing costs with the reconfiguration.

"It will be much more effi-

cient," he said. "The number of buses will remain the same, but instead of running buses with 30-35 students, there will be 45-50 students."

The committee also recommended:

- All-day kindergarten at the 10 K-4 buildings, although continuing it "beyond 2010-11 is an economic factor and will depend on funding from the state of Michigan."
- Offering world languages and instrumental and vocal music and gifted and talented educational programming at the fifth- and sixth-grade levels.
- Also offering world languages as full year classes at the seventh- and eighth-grade levels. Students would have "the opportunity to take two full years of world language ... to fulfill their Michigan Merit Curriculum high school credit requirement." Two language graduation credits will be required beginning with next year's seventh-grade class.

"The fact is the committee wanted foreign languages to help these kids graduate with those credits," Deputy Supt. Charlotte Sherman said.

- Offering advanced classes at the seventh- and eighth-grade levels for students who are gifted in particular academic areas.
- That the school board and administration look at other cost containment/savings, such as approaching employee groups about salary and step freezes, investigating a reduction in employee benefits, such as modifications in benefits levels and insurance providers, and look at staff reductions of non-mandatory and non-grant funded personnel.

At the Nov. 30 meeting, the school board will receive the recommendation and then hear comments from the public. It will meet again at 6 p.m. Monday, Dec. 7, at the auditorium to make its decision.

"I've lived here since 1980 and I have three grandchildren, one going into kindergarten and two in fifth-sixth. I know what they will feel if we don't move forward," said John Albrecht, executive director or student and legal affairs. "I know what they won't have, if we don't move forward."

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Livonia farm owner talks turkey

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Thanksgiving is almost here and for Christine Roperti, business is picking up.

Roperti's Turkey Farm is in full swing in early November, with the free range toms and hens, all 4,000 of them, roaming the field next to Christine's home and office.

Christine runs the family business with her husband, Wesley Bates, along with son Tony Skrabut and son Tom Roperti, and daughter-in-law Ferida Roperti.

Christine Roperti's father, Thomas Roperti, moved from Dearborn in 1942 and bought five acres and the farm to provide for his family.

In 1948, Roperti started with 50 turkeys and the next year he raised 100 and 500 the third year, Christine said. Sixty-one years later, it's been all turkeys ever since.

With Thanksgiving on Nov. 26, Roperti is ready for customers to place their orders for fresh turkeys, all fed with a mixture of corn, wheat and oats mixed with a mash

concentrate, which is then switched to strictly corn for two weeks at which time the turkeys are processed. That diet makes her turkeys juicier and more flavorful, Roperti said.

The turkeys consume seven tons of feed a week.

Roperti receives the turkeys from a farmer in Holland, who delivers them to Roperti in late August when they are about 9 weeks old. She'll feed and house them until this month when a majority will be cleaned and processed for holiday consumption on America's favorite food holiday: Thanksgiving.

So how does the woman who runs Roperti's Turkey Farm like her turkey?

"I put olive oil on it. I like to put either apples and oranges or celery and onions in it, and use the juices from it to moisten the bread," Roperti said. She also uses garlic powder, oregano and sage with the oil to season it.

Behind the building is the family's smokehouse. Turkeys are smoked over a wood mixture of apple and cherry wood topped with a hickory sawdust



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Christine Roperti raises 4,000 turkeys on her farm on Five Mile Road.

that is soaked in water. Those turkeys are soaked in a brine of kosher salt, sugar, brown sugar and curing salt.

Roperti sells turkeys ranging from 17 to 35 pounds. "The cooking isn't a problem," she said of the large birds. "It takes six or seven hours. It's getting a pan to fit." That problem is alleviated by using two large aluminum foil roasting pans shaped to fit the large turkey, then placing a large cookie sheet underneath the pans for

support.

Roperti starts her oven at 400 degrees, then turns it down to 350. "It seals the juices in at the high temperature," Roperti said.

She gets several requests out of state, but she doesn't ship. She only sells to locals. "We'll get calls from North Carolina, Arizona, Chicago and New York," she said. "There's a few who have moved away and they can't find that taste anywhere," Roperti said.

For leftovers, she likes to make a turkey and rice dish topped with gravy. "I love turkey sandwiches with cheese melted on it," she said. If cranberries are left from dinner, she likes to top the turkey sandwich with that too, Roperti said.

Roperti's turkeys cost \$2.99 a pound. The smoked turkeys are \$4.99 a pound. The farm is open 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Business has been a little slow, Roperti said, with the economy down. But she believes her turkeys beat the factory farm-raised ones because of her feed and the juicy turkeys she raises. "When you get a good product that's raised locally, you want to keep coming back," Roperti said of her customers.

Jim Jourdan, vice president and general counsel of Records Deposition Service in Southfield, buys about 50 turkeys each year for employees.

Jourdan's company used to buy their turkeys from markets but switched to Roperti's about six years ago.

Jourdan, who lives in Plymouth, always wanted to try

the turkeys. Tom Roperti had done some landscaping work for Jourdan, and Jourdan had known of the farm as he drove by it on Five Mile.

"They're nice people and they've got a good product," Jourdan said. "The turkeys are fresh, organic and better than anything you buy at the supermarkets. And they're great people to work with. It's a great gift for our employees."

And, Jourdan added, he's buying local.

Sharon Brand of Canton said her family has purchased turkeys for several years, starting with her father who is now 85. She's purchased them for about 25 years, she said. "We're buying a turkey from them and taking it with us," she said of plans to visit her son and daughter-in-law in Minnesota.

"It's fresh, moist and there's no preservatives," Brand said. "It keeps its moisture and it's tasty. I know it's a family business, and they do a great service. I like to encourage and support a family-run business."

kabramczk@hometownlife.com
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Pageturners schedule book discussion groups

Pageturners, Schoolcraft College's book discussion group for students, faculty, staff and the general public, has selected "Three Cups of Tea" for the fall semester's Campus Read project.

The Campus Read and book discussions mark the culmination of the college's semester-long Pennies for Peace collection drive. The book discussions of *Three Cups of Tea* will be held at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 19 at the Radcliff Center in Garden City; 6:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 23 and at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 23 in the Bradner Library on the main campus in Livonia.

Copies of the book are available for 40 percent off in the Student Activities

Office or Radcliff Center. The Pageturners discussion groups are free and open to the public.

Three Cups of Tea, written by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin, is the true story of Mortenson's efforts to build schools in Afghanistan and Pakistan. In 1993, after a failed attempt to make it to the summit of K2, the world's second-highest mountain, Mortenson wandered into an impoverished Pakistan village exhausted, emaciated, disoriented and suffering from edema. The villagers took him in and nursed him back to health. Grateful for their efforts, he promised to return someday and build them a school. "Three Cups of Tea" tells the story of his journey to

make good on that promise.

In 1996 Mortenson founded Pennies for Peace, an international service-learning program through which organizations, predominately educational institutions, donate pennies to support community-based education and literacy programs in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Since then, Pennies for Peace has built more than 100 schools, educating more than 28,000 students, over half of whom are girls, an unusual feat in these two countries.

For more information about Pageturners, "Three Cups of Tea," or the Pennies for Peace campaign, e-mail erybicka@schoolcraft.edu or call (734) 462-4400 ext. 5685.

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PUBLIC SAFETY

Roofer reports tools stolen from van

Tools stolen

On Nov. 16, a resident in the 7700 block of Melvin told police that six nail guns, a compressor, a framing gun and assorted other tools valued at \$3,400 were stolen from a vehicle parked in his driveway.

WESTLAND COP CALLS

The resident said the items belonged to his employer, a Livonia roofing company. Access

was likely gained through the rear van doors, the resident said, which had prior damage.

Break-in

A resident in the 1400 block of Westchester told police Nov. 11 that he arrived home to find his 50-inch television and computer missing. After police arrived and checked the home, broken windows were found in the basement and the back door was open.

Looking further around the house, the homeowner reported a fireproof safe containing \$3,700 in cash, a 47-inch television and a digital video camera were also missing.

Larceny from vehicles

Two people reported their vehicles had been broken into while they were at Town and Country Lanes, 1100 S. Wayne Road, Nov. 11. A Wayne woman told police that she had left her \$900 Coach bag containing her \$8,600 wedding ring, clothing and a curling iron on the front seat of her locked vehicle. The passenger door lock was damaged so that



the key couldn't be used but hadn't been punched out.

Also on Nov. 11, a Westland man reported a book bag containing a college textbook and a flash drive had been stolen from his vehicle. The items were valued at \$245. Like the other vehicle, the passenger door lock had been damaged.

Larceny from a vehicle

A Westland man told police that someone had stolen his cell phone and the stereo from his vehicle Nov. 15 while he was at JR's Lounge, 31150 Palmer, for 10 minutes. The steering column was also reported damaged. The man told police the vehicle was locked but the window was partially down.

Tires missing

A resident of the Scotsdale Apartments,

37625 Dale, told police Nov. 16 that someone had stolen four tires and wheels from his 2007 Ford Focus. The tires and wheels were valued at \$1,000.

Police were called to the Scotsdale Apartments Nov. 17 when someone reported a vehicle missing all four tires and rims. The 2006 Pontiac G6 was sitting on landscaping bricks. The officer said he was unable to contact the registered vehicle owner, a Redford woman. The tires and rims were valued at \$800.

Larceny from a vehicle

A lap top computer valued at \$800 was reported missing Nov. 16 from an unlocked vehicle parked in the 700 block of South Wildwood.

Break-in

Police responded to call about a possible break-in at a home in the 32000 block of Hazelwood early Nov. 17. A suspect was reported to be running from the garage through the yards. The homeowner told the officer that her alarm had gone off and she had double-locked the doors. The officer said no damage was found to the garage.

The Garden City police dog responded and followed a track into the rear yard of the home to the west. Officers located an six-inch flashlight that had little power.

There was no track indicated by the dog in several other yards although officers found a garage door open in the 32000 block of Glen.

- By LeAnne Rogers

Two men arrested for break-in

Break-in

Garden City police arrested two Garden City men, 17 and 18, Nov. 16 in connection with a home invasion in the 32500 block of Pardo.

A young woman who said that she came to check on her parents' home while they were out of town said that she found several items missing. She said that some of their jewelry, DVDs, PlayStation games, rifle with scope, and a laptop were taken.

A side garage door was kicked open but nothing was taken. The police found a handprint and an open house window. The items were recovered at one suspect's apartment.

Larceny

After a Garden City High School student told her father that someone took her iPhone which she had set down in the girls' bathroom, the dad called the police. By using cell phone provider information, the police learned that the phone was pawned at Garden City Exchange by an 18-year-old man. The phone was returned to the family.

Open burning

A Garden City man was ticketed for open burning after his neighbor's fence caught on fire.

The Garden City Fire Department was called to put out the fire that damaged a 3- to 5-foot portion of a 6-foot fence in the 28400 block of John Hawk about 2 a.m. Nov. 16. The

GARDEN CITY COP CALLS

firefighters determined that the fire was caused by a nearby fire pit.

The responsible resident said that he would repair his neighbor's fence.

Retail fraud

After a customer came into the CVS Pharmacy, 27435 Ford, about 11:45 p.m. Nov. 16, and asked to see a GPS navigational unit, the man fled on foot from the store with the device without paying for it.

The suspect is described as white, about 6-foot with a handprint and an open house window. He wore blue jeans and a dark hooded sweat shirt.

Stolen truck

A 2004 GMC Sierra pickup which was backed up against a garage in the 6800 block of Cardwell was reported stolen sometime before 9 a.m. Nov. 14.

Larceny

Tools were reported stolen from a 1992 Ford Econoline van which was parked in the 29000 block of Rosslyn Nov. 14.

Drunken driving

The police arrested a 73-year-old Garden City man for drunken driving after he struck another car on Ford near Middlebelt. The man admitted that he was drunk at 9:20 p.m. Nov. 15 when he was stopped.

He registered a .24 on the Breathalyzer test.

- By Sue Buck

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Public's ideas for school cuts sought

BY KAREN SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The Livonia school board is seeking the public's input on its budget situation.

The board faces cuts totaling \$10 million in per-pupil funding this school year unless the state Legislature acts to reverse some of the cuts. It also faces, like other districts across the state, the likelihood of even more cuts next year as state revenue continues to decline.

The district has a \$155 million general fund budget.

"We welcome any and all suggestions and concerns," board President Lynda Scheel said Tuesday.

She said the board wants to include the public in its discussion of what a Livonia Public Schools education should look like with reduced funding.

The board will hold a study session at 7:30 p.m. Monday in its board room at 15125 Farmington Road.

Comments may be e-mailed to jwozniak@livoniapublicschools.org. They will be distributed to board members ahead of the meeting.

At its regular meeting Monday, the board approved a bid for the demolition of Wilson School, a contract for child care workers and a lease agreement with Harvest Bible Chapel church for space at Johnson Upper Elementary School. All votes were unanimous.

WEBSTER SCHOOL DEMOLITION

The board awarded a contract for \$210,000 to Farrow Group in Detroit for the demolition of Webster School, originally opened in 1954, according to Rod Hosman, director of secondary programs and facilities. Farrow Group's was the lowest complete bid of 12 submitted, Hosman said.

The school at West Chicago and Harrison was last used for instruction 28 years ago. Most recently it was used for food services and storage.

The 8.7-acre site will be left as green space. The school dis-

trict will retain the property in the event it needs it in the future. There was no market for the building, officials said.

Demolition is expected to take place in late December, depending on asbestos clean-up and permit acquisition, Hosman said.

EMPLOYEE CONTRACT

The board approved a two-year agreement with the Livonia Community Education Association, a group of 61 part-time employees who work as child care providers at Jackson Early Childhood Center and in the before- and after-school latchkey programs at the district's various elementary schools.

The contact — retroactive to July 1, 2008, and set to expire June 30, 2010 — calls for a pay freeze, said Cindy DeMan, assistant director of personnel. Employees, however, will get one additional paid day off and will be able to use two of their banked sick days as personal days. They receive no health benefits.

"They could see what was going on," DeMan said. "I think we were fair to both parties."

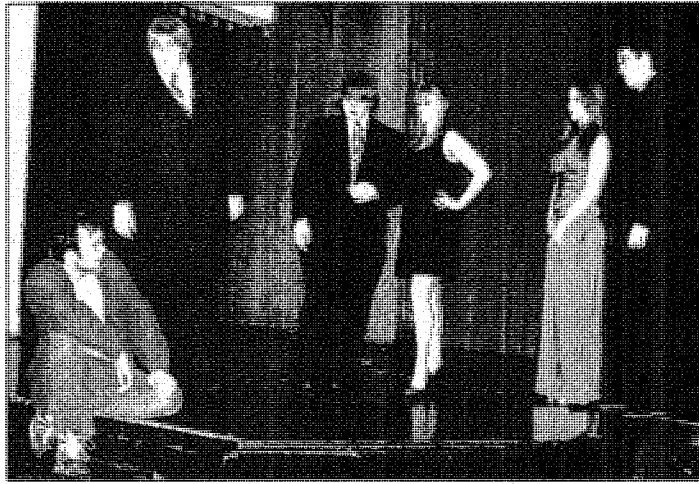
The union ratified the agreement Nov. 9.

CHURCH LEASE

The board approved a 10-month lease agreement with Harvest Bible Chapel for the cafeteria, large group room, music room and staff lounge on Sundays only at Johnson Upper Elementary School for \$32,573.

The agreement runs from Sept. 1, 2009, to June 30, 2010.

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Appearing in Rehearsal for Murder are, from left, John Bagazinski playing Frank Heller, Tim Colling as Leo Gibbs, Nick Colling portraying Lloyd Andrews, Caitlyn Macuga playing Karen Daniels, Erin Roulier as Monica Welles and Eric Cruickshank playing Alex Dennison.

Franklin Players present 'Rehearsal for Murder'

The Franklin High School Players will present *Rehearsal for Murder*, a former television screenplay that's now a puzzling mystery play, at 7 p.m. today and Friday.

The production involves a dead actress and her former fellow actors asking the question, "Did she commit suicide or was she murdered?"

Tickets — \$5 for adults and \$3 for students and children — will be available at the door. Starring in this ensemble

production are two senior actors, Eric Cruickshank and Erin Roulier. Their fellow actors include senior Tim Colling, juniors Nick Colling, Katie Parisi and John Bagazinski, and underclassmen Caitlyn Macuga and Nick Perry. The cast is rounded out by a supporting group of young actors who appear at various moments to enrich the story.

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The Garden City Goodfellows is a 501c3 non-profit organization. Garden City Goodfellows phone line: 734-679-7838

Police still seek cause of Ford Road accident

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

As Canton authorities piece together what caused a Garden City driver to cross the median and hit two cars in rush-hour Ford Road traffic, one of four people has been released from a hospital, police confirmed.

The accident happened Friday evening on Ford Road near I-275, one of Canton's most accident-prone stretches of highway.

A 5-year-old Westland girl has been released from the University of Michigan Hospital, but her 30-year-old mother and 8-year-old sibling remain hospitalized, police Sgt. Mark Gajeski said Wednesday.

The 24-year-old Garden City woman who police say crossed the median also remains hospitalized after she was taken to Oakwood Hospital.

Detective Sgt. Dave Schreiner said Wednesday the police department's specialized accident investigation team is continuing to investigate what caused the multiple-injury accident that snarled traffic shortly after 6 p.m. on Canton's busiest thoroughfare.

The Garden City woman was driving her car west on Ford Road when she crossed the median and struck two east-bound vehicles, Gajeski said.

A 59-year-old woman driving the first car that was struck received only minor injuries, but a second vehicle driven by the Westland mother was hit head-on, Gajeski said.

The mother was airlifted to U-M Hospital, and her two children were taken there by ambulance. The 5-year-old girl has since been released, Gajeski said.

The Garden City driver, taken to Oakwood for serious injuries, also remains hospitalized.

Police hadn't released the identities of people involved in the accident.

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EARLY SHOPPING TIPS

Getting started on your holiday decorating? Check back Dec. 3 for the "Decorating for the Holidays" special page!

ADVERTISING FEATURE

Holiday Happenings

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Santa Claus is coming to town at Dixboro General Store from noon to 4 p.m. on Nov. 28-29, Dec. 5-6, 12-13 and 19-20, with a special reindeer appearance on Dec. 13.

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THE SURPRISING HIDDEN COSTS OF HOLIDAY SHOPPING - AND HOW TO BEAT THEM

As we head into this holiday season, shoppers will start to plan their holiday gift lists, hit the stores and start shopping. Getting the most for your holiday shopping dollars this year will not only be about sticking to a budget, but managing valuable time to spend on shopping for the holidays.

Bing.com commissioned University of Washington Economist Ali Tarhouni to analyze data on consumer shopping behavior and found the time spent holiday shopping could be more valuable than you might think.

- Research reveals that an average American can expect a \$114 savings, or roughly 10 percent savings per transaction in time and material cost this holiday season by reducing the running around typically associated with holiday shopping.

- Shoppers could make an average of 5.4 trips to the mall for holiday shopping this coming season, which is equivalent to an average of \$98 for lost working productivity and approximately \$16 for gas, according to Tarhouni's research.

- A typical consumer visits an average of five stores, shops for an average of two hours and spends an average of \$150 per mall trip during the holiday season, according to a survey by Baker Retail Initiative and Verde Group Research. Conducting research by comparison shopping online before heading into stores or making purchases online can help reduce the amount of time and money spent.

Mary Hunt, personal finance expert and author of "Debt Proof Living," believes it's important to be smart in the way you approach your holiday shopping so you can avoid these hidden costs and be more productive this holiday season.

"This season it is all about value, and time is often a more precious resource than money," says Hunt. "If we consider how valuable each hour of our holiday shopping experience is, consider how much more valuable spending time with loved ones is, or volunteering at a local food bank. Shopping is about efficiency this time of year, and it's about using the tools available to make better purchasing decisions faster."

Hunt offers a few tips to help you make faster and more informed shopping decisions this holiday season:

- Use tools available online: when creating your holiday shopping plan, start online. You can organize your list, set your budget and comparison shop fast and efficiently.

Sites like Bing.com offer comprehensive user and expert reviews, and you can choose to shop entirely online, or hit the mall more empowered to find what you want in less time.

- Shop alone. Take the kids to the mall to see the Holiday sights and sounds and enjoy hot chocolate and cinnamon rolls, but shop alone when you are not distracted or pressured. Shopping solo gives you the luxury to compare, contemplate and change your mind.

- Keep organized with an exclusive online shopping e-mail account and keep all receipts. Create an e-mail address that you use exclusively for online shopping. Now it will be a snap to keep all your invoices and receipts together in one place where they can be easily retrieved. Returns are always easiest when you have the receipt. Ask for "gift receipts" that do not show the dollar amounts to give to your recipient just in case the sweater doesn't fit or the color is all wrong. A stack of envelopes, each with the name of a person on your list, is the best way to stay organized.

- Shop early to take advantage of deals and free shipping. If you wait until the last moment you may spend all your savings on overnight shipping. Shop early when you have the luxury of the cheaper and slower — delivery options.

- Get cash back. More online retailers than ever are offering cash back this holiday season. Try Bing cashback for cash rewards on purchases from more than a thousand of your favorite retailers including Walmart, Target, HP, Nordstrom and eBay.

Bing shopping offers you a single destination to shop and get cashback from more than 1,000 retailers nationwide. You'll reduce your online shopping time with features including search result filters, comprehensive shopping results and opinion ranking.

Bing cashback allows you to set up an account and receive actual cash back on qualifying purchases. The site tells you up front what items will qualify and how much you'll save. Money is deposited into your account and you can ask for a payout 60 days (varies by merchants) after purchases as long as your account total tops \$5.

Log on to www.Bing.com/shopping to save time and money this holiday shopping season and earn cash back on your purchases.

— Courtesy of ARAcontent

GET THE MOST VALUE OUT OF YOUR HOLIDAY SHOPPING

What is the hottest holiday gift-giving trend this season? It's all about getting the most bang for your buck.

"Shopping for the holidays this year is all about finding value and stretching your dollar to get the most out of your purchases," says Steve Kemble, 'America's Saggiest Lifestyle Guru' and General Growth Properties (GGP) gift-giving expert. "Knowing the secrets to finding the best deals and creating a successful shopping strategy will get you the most value as you shop for family and friends this holiday season."

To help make your holiday shopping experience a success, Kemble offers his top tips for a foolproof holiday shopping plan:

Tip 1: Subscribe to your local mall's e-mail list

Be the first to find out about the hottest deals by joining the e-mail list of your local mall. By adding yourself to these lists, you may be alerted of upcoming sales, or even receive special coupons or invitations to shopping events or promotions. Visit www.MerryGiving.com to find your local GGP mall Web site and register to receive exclusive news, retail offers and much more.

Tip 2: Buy early and late

Be a savvy shopper and buy gifts throughout the year when you find a good sale. By planning ahead and crossing some items off your list before the holidays, you can avoid feeling pressured into last-minute purchases and find a few gifts during late-season sales when some stores offer deeper discounts.

Tip 3: Buy last year's model

Skip the lines and the steep prices by buying last year's models on electronics that have likely seen up to 30 percent price cuts. Today's cutting-edge technological advancements in Mp3 players and digital cameras don't come cheap, so carefully consider the added value they offer. Do your research and find out if those extra pixels or special features are essential for the person you are shopping for. If you pay close attention, you

may find that last year's model does 95 percent of the things that this year's model does, but at 70 percent of the price.

Tip 4: Comparison shop

Being organized is crucial to developing a successful holiday shopping strategy. Start a list of items you need to purchase and watch for ads in the newspaper, on television, and in your mall subscription alerts starting in early November. Then make your purchases wherever you find the best deals or most compelling promotions. For example, participating GGP malls all over the country are offering special retail offers on Thanksgiving weekend, including \$10 GGP Gift Cards with qualifying purchases, and free holiday "Mistle-Tote" giveaways full of retailer goodies, while supplies last. Check out www.MerryGiving.com for more event information.

Tip 5: Find value in the season's hottest gifts

Finally, once you have planned the perfect holiday shopping strategy, keep your eyes open for these hot holiday gifts that can offer great value. Eco-chic is in now more than ever, and many gifts put a hip spin on being environmentally friendly by using renewable materials that are both functional and eco-responsible. For the techie on your list, smart phones are the do-it-all tool that keeps families connected with each other and the rest of the world. The latest smart phone technology is more affordable than ever - even free with a new contract or group plan - and available across a variety of carriers. Finally, for your fashionista friend, remember that high fashion doesn't necessarily have to come with a high price tag. Give big, bold accessories that make a stylish statement without breaking the bank.

To find more ways to get the most value out of the holidays log on to www.MerryGiving.com where you can explore details of exclusive shopping events, retailer sales, and a special partnership with Martha Stewart Living magazine, all taking place at participating GGP malls across the country.

— Courtesy of ARAcontent



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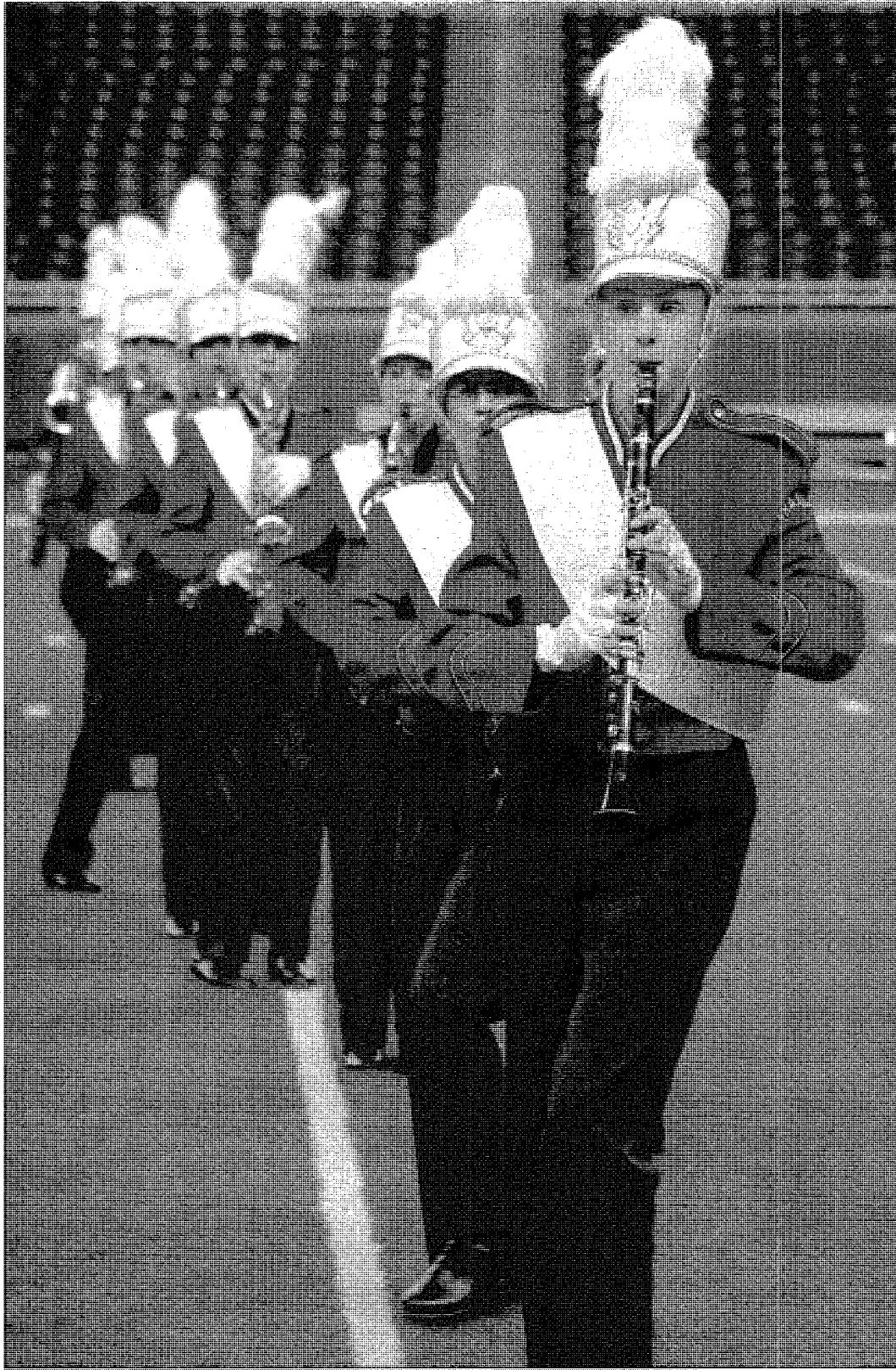
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Franklin Marching Band clarinetists Allison Wysocki and Rebecca Folsom, followed by saxophonists Kaylene Wright and Triston Jackson, among others, perform at the Michigan Competing Band Association State Finals Nov. 7 at Ford Field.

Patriot marchers finish in top 10 at state finals

BY DIANE HANSON
CORRESPONDENT

At 71 members, Livonia Franklin's Patriot Marching Band may be one of the smallest Flight I bands in the Michigan Competing Band Association, but it produces a big-band sound and its performance Nov. 7 at Ford Field in the Michigan Competing Band Association 30th annual State Finals netted it the 10th-place award.

"I thought they had a very good show," said a smiling Kristi Jasin, director of bands at Franklin. "They've really worked hard to get to States, and I'm very grateful that they've made it. Every week they have gotten better and better and that's our goal."

Each year, the 40 highest-scoring high school marching bands — 10 in each of Flights I, II, III and IV — compete in the daylong competition. Flights are determined by school enrollment, not band size, with Flight I being the largest schools. This year's pageantry of masterful marching, music, color and choreography was appreciated by some 13,000 spectators.

Franklin's 10-minute competition performance, titled "Quest," portrayed a search for treasure, complete with treasure map and a huge treasure chest.

"Everyone likes hunting for treasure," Jasin said, "and hunting for the best things in life."

One of the best things for senior drum major Kaitlyn

Koslakiewicz has been the band itself.

"It changed my life," she said. "Marching band is so much fun, and I think we did really well today."

That's just how senior trumpeter Shawn Hand felt.

"This was one of my favorite shows," he said. "Our show definitely wasn't a snore — it kept the audience glued to us. Even though we're a small band, we're still worth listening to."

And that's something of which Franklin Principal Dan Willenborg doesn't need to be convinced. Clad in a red band shirt, he was busy shaking hands and congratulating the students after Saturday's

finals performance.

"Marching band is a tremendous part of our school," he said. "These students put in more time and more effort than any other program in our school. They are a hard-working, very dedicated group with a great set of supportive parents. I'm always amazed at what they do."

This year's championship trophies were awarded to: Flight I, Plymouth-Canton; Flight II, Muskegon's Reeths-Puffer; Flight III, Ferndale; and Flight IV, Wyoming's Godwin Heights. Scores and placements for all area bands can be found at www.themcba.org under Scores — Nov. 7.

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B112 Edward Watkins	Motorcycle Parts, 5 Totes, 10 Boxes
B113 Edward Watkins	Engine Stand, Sanding Machine, Drill Press
C156 Brandi Warren	Toys, Stereo, 5 Boxes
C168 James Craemer	Desk, Microwave, 5 Boxes
C182 Laura Anderson	Table, Dresser, 5 Boxes
E146 Russell Redmon	Toys, 40 Boxes, 5 Bags
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Do earth a favor, recycle

We have to ask: What did you do on Sunday?

If you're a hunter, your answer is simple: You joined the army of orange in the woods for the opening day of rifle deer season. Many of you probably went to church, read the Sunday paper and watched the Detroit Lions on TV.

But how many of you did something for the environment?

It is surprising that with all the talk about global warming, there was little comment about Sunday being America Recycles Day, the only nationally recognized day dedicated to encouraging Americans to recycle and to buy recycled products.

For 12 years, Keep America Beautiful Inc. (KAB) and the National Recycling Coalition have used America Recycles Day to raise awareness by educating people about the benefits of recycling. And it appears the message is getting across to people. There's been an uptick in recycling over the past decade. The nation's composting and recycling rate rose from 17 percent in 1990 to a currently high of around 33 percent.

Recycling is really just common sense, and until the "modern era," it was a common household activity. Before the 1920s, 70 percent of U.S. cities ran programs to recycle certain materials. During World War II, industry recycled and reused about 25 percent of the waste stream.

We all know we need to do something to reverse the effects of global warming and recycling is one of the easiest ways to help. By recycling, we can help significantly lower carbon emissions. According to www.americarecyclesday.org, last year the amount of energy saved from recycling aluminum and steel cans, plastic PET and glass containers, newsprint and corrugated packaging was equivalent to:

- The amount of electricity consumed by 17.8 million Americans in one year.
- 29 percent of nuclear electricity generation in the U.S. in one year.
- 7.9 percent of electricity generation from fossil fuels in the U.S. in one year.
- 11 percent of the energy produced by coal-fired power plants in the U.S.
- The energy supplied from 2.7 percent of imported barrels of crude oil into the U.S.
- The amount of gasoline used in almost 11 million passenger automobiles in one year.

We admit we let America Recycles Day slip by, but we believe every day should be an America Recycles Day. Whether it's carting your cans, bottles and papers to a recycling center or using bins for curbside recycling, we urge residents to get involved.

It takes all of us to create a better natural environment. Recycling is one way we can help. The fact is that if America's recycling rate for aluminum and steel cans, plastic PET and glass containers, newsprint and corrugated packaging increased by 10 percent, we would save enough energy to provide electricity to 1.8 million Americans for an entire year, according to www.americarecyclesday.org.

Sunday may have been the day to get educated about recycling, but today and everyday are good days to recycle. Do the earth a favor, and get involved. Who knows, that plastic water bottle you recycle may be the one that puts us over the hump in reversing global warming.

ONLINE VOICES & VIEWS

Here is what our online readers are saying about:

• Installing new GC officials

Here we again have a prime example of the blatant disregard for separation of church and state. There is no need or place for a Bible and vocation at a political ceremony such as this. I am offended that we once again are bowing to the majority who, without proof, believe in a sky-daddy. Then proceed to consider it a necessary part of a political event.

GrimDaddy

WESTLAND OBSERVER



Sue Mason
Community
Editor

Susan Rosiek
Executive Editor
/ Publisher

Grace Perry
Director of
Advertising

COMMUNITY VOICE

Who is the person you admire the most?

We asked this question at the Maplewood Community Center and VCA of Garden City.



"I don't know. That's too hard of a question."

Denise Toney
Redford



"Barack Obama. He's trying to do something. If it fails, it fails, but at least he puts up an effort."

Brad Davis
Westland



"Jack Kennedy - He was a family man and upheld family values. With him, we stuck together, worked together and got together to get what we needed for this country."

Mary Zassadney
Garden City



"I think I like President Obama. I think he does a good job."

Barbara Blanchard
Garden City

LETTERS

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

We welcome your Letter to the Editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We ask your letters be 400 words or less. We may edit for clarity, space and content. Submit letters via the following formats. Web: www.hometownlife.com E-mail: smason@hometownlife.com Blog: You may also let your opinions be heard with your own blog at hometownlife.com. Deadline: Letters must be received by 9 a.m. Monday to be published in the Thursday edition.

Disappointed with McCotter

I am a pediatrician and a mother, living and working in Thaddeus McCotter's district. While I fully expected that Representative McCotter would not vote for the health reform bill, I did not expect that he would vote "yes" on the other health care proposal considered that day.

This health care plan, known as "the Boehner substitute" was clearly not written in the best interests of improving the quality of health care in this country. Rather, this proposal was cleverly drafted to best serve the needs of the insurance industry. According to the bipartisan Congressional Budget Office which looked into this bill, 8 out of 10 Americans would only see a 3 percent drop in insurance premiums under the best case scenario and thousands of un- and under-insured families would receive no help whatsoever.

Fortunately, a health care reform bill passed without the assistance of Rep. McCotter's vote, but this is only the first act in a three-act play. Next the health care reform bill will move to the Senate for debate before finally heading to the conference committee to work out the differences between the successful House reform bill and what ultimately clears the U.S. Senate. As a doctor, I won't pretend to know exactly how to fix

every problem with our current system, but I do know we just can't ignore these problems any longer. We all need a health care reform bill to hit President Obama's desk.

As a doctor, I talk to families every day who have suffered from the effect that this economy has had on their ability to keep health insurance. I recently spoke with a young family who is struggling to continue making Cobra payments since the husband was laid off from his job. His wife continues to work full-time but her job doesn't offer health insurance and she has a "pre-existing condition." Even though their monthly Cobra

payments are higher than their mortgage payment, this young family simply cannot afford to miss an insurance payment. Under the reform plan that passed the House, the days of families choosing between health care and a roof over their heads will come to an end.

Another patient, a laid-off auto worker, is struggling to care for his son who was recently diagnosed with autism. I lose sleep when I think that both Mom and Dad now work as many hours as they can get at part-time jobs that, of course, do not provide health insurance. While they feel lucky to have work, they simply can't afford the therapy that their beautiful two-year-old boy really needs given their under-employment situation.

I, as a mother, doctor and citizen, am very concerned that during these trying times my representative seems to be working in direct opposition to the needs of the working families in my neighborhood. This behavior on his part is nothing short of irresponsible. As this process moves forward, I hope that my neighbors, patients and friends will join with me in urging Representative McCotter to put families first and stop playing politics with our health care.

Dr. Kathryn Bondy Fessler

staff physician
Integrated Health Associates research fellow
University of Michigan

H1N1 clinics: Prepare to wait a long time

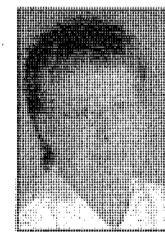
Hey, parents, just a heads up. If your heading to one of those H1N1 mass vaccination clinics, be prepared. Bring a chair, bring food, bring beverages. The wait will be long and it will be tiring.

I know this. I spent 4 1/2 hours in a line with thousands of people at Schoolcraft College this week-end at the health department's first H1N1 clinic in western Wayne County. According to its schedule, it was for people living in 10 communities - Livonia, Westland, Garden City, Redford, Plymouth, Canton, Northville, Inkster, Dearborn and Dearborn Heights - but it probably was more like 11 with Plymouth Township covered under the umbrella label of Plymouth.

I have a feeling that the Wayne County Public Health Department is geographically challenged. They know what's east and west and everything in between, but when I came to the clinic, I can only shake my head in amazement.

That's a heck of a lot of territory and a whole lot of people to vaccinate between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. I don't think they looked at how many people live in those communities. I don't think they did the math as to how many parents of children, how many families of people with underlying medical conditions would turn out for the first such clinic in the area.

The health department held



Sue Mason

two mass clinics in October on the east side of for four communities - Hamtramck, Harper Woods, Highland Park and Grosse Pointe, but as with Plymouth Township, I'm

sure Grosse Pointe also include Grosse Pointe Woods, Grosse Pointe Farms and Grosse Pointe Shores. Population counts for those seven communities was roughly 79,800 people. Small potatoes when you consider Saturday's clinic was for a population of more than 500,000 people. That's not how many showed up, but I'd guess there was close to 10,000 people who waited in a long line for a very long time. It was not a pleasant experience, but thank God, the weather was nice. I can't imagine standing in that line in nasty weather.

The line that snaked around the Schoolcraft College campus was the longest grand march I'd ever seen. No matter where you looked it was a mass of humanity. We'd all come for the same reason - to keep the swine flu away from our loved ones. I'm not sure any of us expected to have to wait four hours to get them vaccinated.

Some came more prepared than others. They brought folding chairs and packs filled with

snacks. Those with two adults sent one off to McDonald's for lunch. I brought a travel mug of coffee for me and offered my kids cinnamon Tic Tacs for snacks. My 15-year-old refused. He preferred to complain about the headache he had because of starvation. By the time we hit the halfway point I was ready to pay \$10 for a \$5 Hot and Ready pizza.

When we hit the last long stretch, I calculated we'd be on the last leg, headed into the fieldhouse by 1 p.m. I was ready to do high fives when we made the turn at 1 p.m. and we were looking at the doors. Ah, we'd be at McDonald's by 1:30 I thought. That's when a woman who had been in line in front of me earlier came up.

A half hour into our wait, she was pulled aside and sent to the fast lane for the pregnant women and those with an underlying medical condition. She was there with her elderly father who was in a wheelchair. When she got sent directly to the fieldhouse, I figured she'd be in and out. Not so. While I spent two hours snaking around the campus, she'd spent the time in a line that was slower than a tortoise.

She was the one who told us that once inside the line snacked around the gym. Well ... sort of. Bleachers on both sides were pulled out to open up five rows of seats. When you got to the

gym, you took a seat in the fifth row and slowly worked your way down to the first row. From there you were sent to the floor where nurses held up orange signs indicating they were ready for another patient.

I have to admit like a lot of parents I debated getting them the shots. I had even thought about going to the health department offices on Van Born in Wayne during walk-in hours, but I ran into a friend who had gone there and waited for three hours and she got there before the office had opened. I didn't want to take my kids out of school and figured the mass clinic was the way to go. Hey, on the news, people were talking about a 1 1/2 hour wait.

Obviously, I was a bit Pollyanna in my thinking, but I'm glad I did it. Certainly, the wait was no fun and my son was disappointed that the shot didn't hurt. The biggest pain was the wait, but at least we were comfortable. It's hard telling what people will face at the next western Wayne County clinic on Dec. 5, also at Schoolcraft. Hopefully, county health officials will do more to accommodate the crowds.

Sue Mason is editor of the Westland and Garden City Observer newspapers. She lives in Westland with her husband and two teenaged children. If you have a comment, e-mail her at smason@hometownlife.com.

Cell phones for Soldiers

Nationwide effort keeps troops connected

BY WENSZY VON BUSKIRK
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

When Patt Carlson heard about Cell Phones for Soldiers, she immediately wanted to get involved. The nationwide program collects used cell phones and turns them into pre-paid calling cards for troops overseas.

"I thought it was a cool idea," said Carlson. "I just thought it was a wonderful effort."

Carlson is director of operations for Pogoda Management Co., a Farmington Hills-based business that manages 34 storage units throughout Michigan and Ohio. Each location will collect cell phones through December, and Carlson said the donation boxes are already more than half full.

She said the self-storage facilities are a natural fit for the program, because customers are often moving or downsizing and sorting through all their stuff.

"It's amazing how many phones people throw away," she said. "I went through my drawer and found three."

Old cell phones may seem obsolete next to shiny new iPhones and Blackberries, but they are actually loaded with value. Each donated cell phone is sent for recycling to ReCellular, an international company based in Dexter.

According to ReCellular's Mike Newman, about half the phones are reconditioned and resold to wholesale companies in more than 40 countries around the world. The rest are harvested for components like gold, silver and plati-

CELL PHONES FOR SOLDIERS



num from circuit boards; copper wiring from phone chargers; nickel, iron, cadmium and lead from battery packs; and plastic from phone cases and accessories.

For each donated phone, ReCellular pays enough to provide a soldier with one hour of talk time.

YOUNG FOUNDERS

Cell Phones for Soldiers was founded by teenagers Robbie and Brittany Berquist of Norwell, Mass., after they read an article about a soldier who ran up a huge cell phone bill calling home from Iraq. The siblings started the non-profit using \$21 of their own money, and it has since raised almost \$1 million in donations and distributed more than 500,000 pre-paid calling cards to soldiers abroad.

Through increased fund-raising efforts, the Bergquist family hopes to raise more than \$9 million in the next five years and expand into providing other services such as video phones.

More than 150,000 troops are currently serving overseas, and Carlson said it's especially important to help them stay connected with loved ones during the holidays.

"Our troops are representing all of us so we should support them," she said.

Visit www.cellphonesforsoldiers.com to find a drop-off site near you, or to print materials and create your own collection box. You can also download a cell phone data eraser, pre-paid shipping labels and donation receipts.

IKEA

CANTON - IKEA Social Initiative will donate \$1 to UNICEF and Save the Children for each soft toy sold during some weeks leading up to the holiday season. IKEA has donated \$16.7 million since launching the effort in 2003. Visit www.ikea.com for more information.

Holiday Food Drive

LIVONIA - Santa Claus is doling out some extra credit this holiday season to good boys and girls of all ages who bring the gift of non-perishable food to Laurel Park Place during November and December. Laurel Park Place is teaming up with Santa and his elves to collect food and financial donations for City of Livonia and Wayne County's neediest families. As part of Santa Feeds America, the largest nationwide canned food drive ever conducted by a shopping center developer, Laurel Park Place is joining more than 80 CBL properties across the country to collect non-perishable food for distribution to through local food banks. Gleaners Community Food Bank of Southeastern Michigan will use all donations to provide for those in need during the holidays and into 2010. For more information, visit CBL's Web site, www.cblproperties.com or LaurelParkPlace.com.

Coat Collection Efforts

WESTLAND - The Lands' End Shop at Sears in Westland Center is among Lands' End locations participating in the Big Warm Up, a nationwide initiative to collect coats for those in need across the country. Through Nov. 30 donate a gently used coat to Lands' End Shops at Sears, and receive 20 percent off the purchase of a new Lands' End coat. All donated coats will be given to the National Coalition for the Homeless for distribution to homeless people near communities where they are collected. Land's End Shops are also

MALLS & MAINSTREETS

located inside Sears at Twelve Oaks Mall and Livonia Mall. Visit www.bigwarmup.com or www.landsend.com.

WEST BLOOMFIELD - For 18 years, Tapper's Diamonds and Fine Jewelry has collected new and used coats and accoutrements to help individuals who cannot afford warm clothing through Michigan's harsh winter. This year, other tenants at Orchard Mall also will join the effort. Through Nov. 21, donate coats and cold-weather clothing at Maria's Bridal Couture, Yoga Shelter, Frameable Faces Photography, Eleganza Boutique, Guys N Gals, Gotta Dance, Massage Envy, The Beauty Lounge, Nancy's Linens and Toys! Toys! Donations go to various organizations, including Orchards Children's Services, Baldwin Church Center, Grace Centers for Hope, Kids Kicking Cancer, Mercy Health Services and the Detroit Public Schools. Orchard Mall is located at Maple and Orchard Lake Roads.

Buckle Opens at Twelve Oaks

NOVI - in time for the holidays, Twelve Oaks is proud to announce the addition of the fashion-forward clothing retailer Buckle to its diverse lineup of nearly 200 stores and services. Offering a unique mix of high-quality, on-trend apparel, accessories and footwear, Buckle caters to style-conscious young men and women who seek to express their individuality through fashion. Reflecting Buckle's focus on helping

guests find their favorite jeans, the store carries a wide selection of fits, styles and finishes from leading denim brands, including their exclusive brand BKE. Buckle is also known for its personalized attention, including free hemming, free gift-wrapping, easy layaway and frequent shopper "Primo Cards." Visit www.shoptwelveoaks.com.

New Art Gallery Opens

LIVONIA - The Art Gallery at Town Peddler, Livonia's newest art gallery and showplace, recently held its grand opening. Located within Town Peddler Craft and Antique Mall at 35323 Plymouth Road, The Art Gallery at Town Peddler features works from top local artists with a wide range of styles, media and prices. For more information, call owner Brenda Bumgardner or visit www.townpeddler.com.

Walk of Trees

PLYMOUTH - Reservations are now being taken for the 2009 Walk of Trees. Any resident, group or business is welcome to sponsor and decorate their own Christmas tree in Kellogg Park. Organizations, businesses, Scout troops and families will decorate their trees Nov. 20-22, which will remain on display through Dec. 30. Trees can be reserved for \$75 each. Each tree will be covered in 200 white lights and will be randomly assigned. The fee includes the cost of the tree, lights, signage, disposal fee and other City costs. Call (734) 453-1540 to reserve your tree.

Help secure her future...



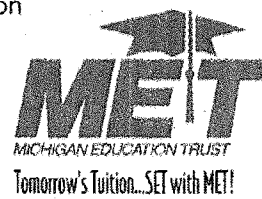
What will college tuition cost in 10 years?

College costs are increasing annually, making it difficult to estimate tuition rates, even for the next few years. This can make planning ahead difficult and frustrating. However, the Michigan Education Trust (MET) makes it possible for parents, grandparents, businesses and others to pre-purchase tomorrow's undergraduate tuition at today's cost.

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Pick mortgage carefully, don't let house own you

Q: Dear Rick: My wife and I have lived in an apartment for the past few years and have decided to buy a home. Our original plan was to begin looking for a house in February or March. In one of your past columns, you wrote about the tax credit for first-time homebuyers, which we are. Your article said that the tax credit expired Nov. 30, 2009. Is it possible to get an extension and do you physi-



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

ing the federal tax credit for

cally have to take control of the house before Nov. 30 or can you sign a purchase agreement by that date and close later?

A: President Barack Obama signed a bill Nov. 6 extending the federal tax credit for

first-time homebuyer. You must enter into a purchase agreement by April 30, 2010, close and take possession by June 30, 2010.

The first issue is to make sure you qualify for the credit. To qualify you must be a first-time homebuyer. A first-time homebuyer is someone who has not owned a primary residence in the last three years. The fact that you've been renting and haven't owned a home means

you meet this test.

In addition, there is an income limit. To qualify for the full credit, for purchases after Nov. 6, 2009, your adjusted gross income, if you are married, must be less than \$225,000. For a single individual, the income limit is \$125,000.

The credit is 10 percent of the purchase price, up to a maximum of \$8,000. Therefore, if you bought a home for \$100,000 and you meet the

income test, you would qualify for an \$8,000 credit. At the end of the year, if you did not owe money in taxes, the government would send you a check for the amount of the credit.

Under the new law, the price of a home cannot exceed \$800,000. There was no price limit under the old law.

The new law also provides that current homeowners may purchase another home to live in and also receive a credit. If a

person has owned the current home for at least five years as the primary residence, a \$6,500 tax credit is available. The credit is 10 percent of the purchase price, up to a maximum of \$6,500 in this instance.

The first-time homebuyer's credit is certainly an incentive for many people to purchase homes. For those who have not already found a house and started the mortgage process, with the extension of the law, you now have additional time to find a home.

Another benefit of the new law is to get the credit (or income tax refund) in the homeowner's possession as soon as possible. If you purchase a home prior to the April 30, 2010, (and close by June 30, 2010) deadline you may treat it as purchased in 2009. The purpose of this is to report the purchase on your 2009 income tax return (or amended tax return for 2009 if purchased after filing your income tax return) even if you purchased the home in 2010. By treating it in this way you will receive the credit sooner. Otherwise, you would have to file your 2010 income tax return in 2011.

One cause of the current financial crisis is that people bought homes they could not afford and obtained mortgages they did not understand. Therefore, despite the extended deadline it is important to take time to ensure you purchase a home that you can afford and that the mortgage is not gimmicky.

I strongly recommend that any prospective buyer take time and select a mortgage that fits his/her individual situation and not one that makes the mortgage company happy.

Make sure you own the house and that the house doesn't own you.

Good luck!

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. Observer & Eccentric readers can submit questions at moneymatters@hometownlife.com. For more information, visit Rick's Web site at www.bloomassetmanagement.com.

PART 'WHAT THE HECK IS THAT?' PART 'LEMME SEE THAT!'

DROID HAS ARRIVED.

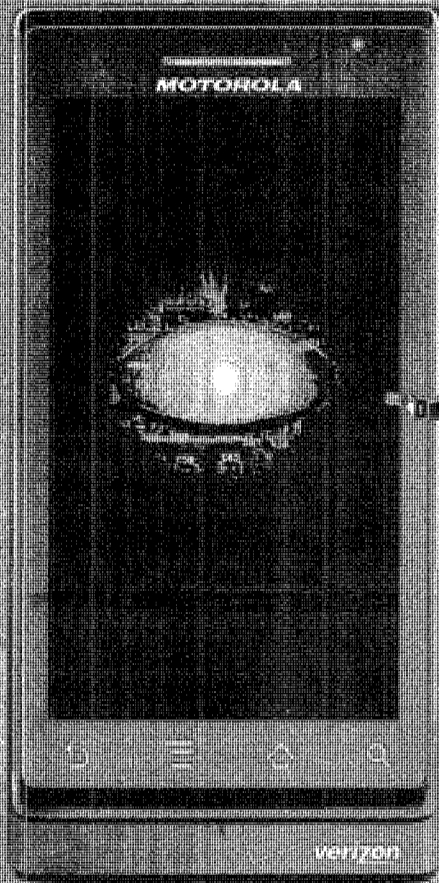
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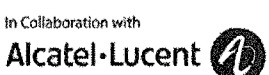
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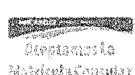
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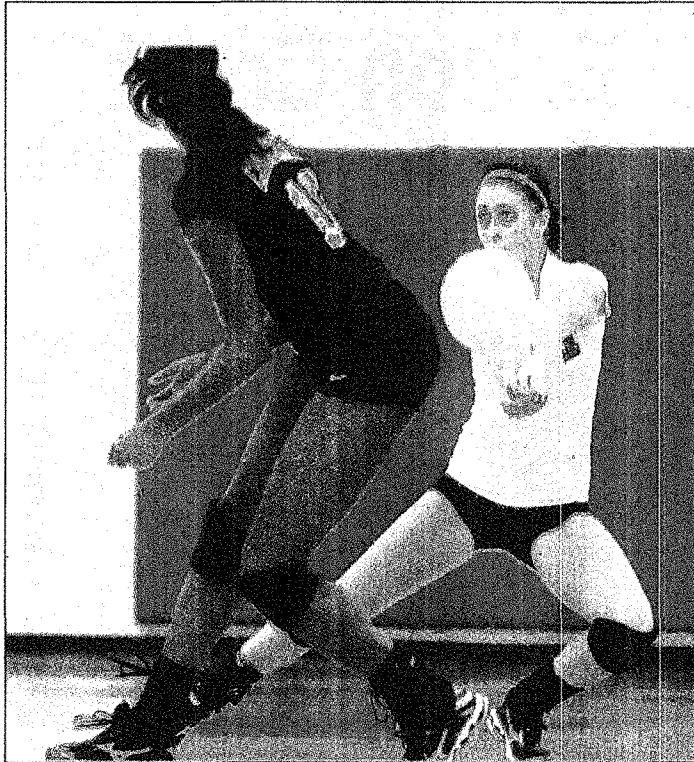
Stress-free holiday cooking - Food, B10

Chargers buzz around Airport to reach Final 4

Suppelsa 'superb' in 3-0 quarterfinal win

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Guess who's back in Battle Creek again? It's the Livonia Churchill girls volleyball team, who stormed into the state Class A semifinals with a convincing 25-22, 26-24, 25-18 victory Tuesday night over Carleton Airport in the Elite Eight played at Brownstown Woodhaven. Churchill, 53-5 overall, takes on Portage Central, 58-7-1 overall, beginning at 7:15 p.m. Thursday at Kellogg Arena in Battle Creek. A dominating attacking display by 5-foot-10 senior Sarah Suppelsa carried the Chargers to their third state semifinal since 2007. Suppelsa, who finished 18 kills and four big blocks, more than held her own against the Jets' twin tower tandem of Jessica Nagy, a finalist for Miss Volleyball, and Jordan Erz. "We've been working so hard and in the end it's paid off," said Suppelsa, who helped rally the Chargers from a 24-19 deficit in the second set. "We've worked on blocking a lot. I just had to time myself and make sure we shut her (Nagy) down. But we knew she'd get her kills. "I've been working on my

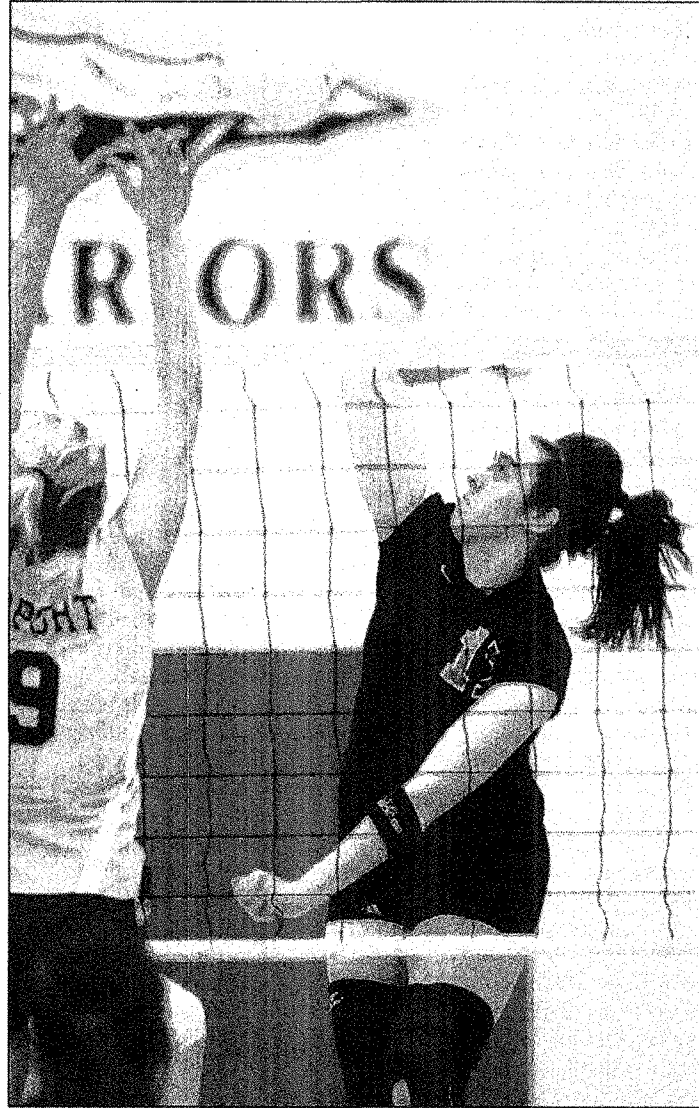


Churchill senior libero Taylor Kerr (white jersey) keeps the ball alive as teammate Cierra Yetts looks on in Tuesday's Class A quarterfinal clash against Carleton Airport.

blocking. That's one area that I need to work on. I'm glad it's coming together." Cierra Yetts, a 5-9 senior outside hitter, also came up big with 16 kills, including six each in the first and third sets for the

Chargers. Junior setter Cory Urbats finished with 41 assist-to-kills, while senior libero Taylor Kerr wound up with a team-high 28

Please see **VOLLEYBALL, B2**



Churchill's Sarah Suppelsa finished with 18 kills and four blocks in Tuesday's Class A quarterfinal victory over Carleton Airport.

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

SIDELINES

MU cagers routed

The Madonna University men's basketball team ventured into the NCAA Division I ranks Tuesday night and it was a day at the beach. The Crusaders fell to 0-5 overall as host Indiana-Purdue at Fort Wayne rolled to an 86-57 win at Memorial Coliseum.

The Mastodons, 1-1 overall, enjoyed a 53-13 halftime advantage after leading 42-7 with 7:42 left until intermission.

Deilvez Yearby led the way for IPFW with a game-high 20 points, while Jeremy Mixon and Ben Botts added 14 and 10, respectively. Antwone Snead pulled down 10 rebounds.

Madonna was led by freshman guard Kevin Henry's 15 points and four assists. Jordan Hoke added 10 points, while Ryan Waidmann (Canton) had eight rebounds.

The Crusaders committed 24 turnovers.

S'craft men's hoop

Justin Armstrong tallied a game-high 22 points Monday night as the Marygrove University JV basketball team downed host Schoolcraft College, 74-61.

Freshman guard Gregory Morgan II (Redford Thurston) and freshman center Aaron Felsner (Allen Park) each tallied 19 points in a losing cause for the Ocelots, who lost their sixth straight and fall to 1-6 overall.

On Saturday, Nick Minnerath poured in a game-high 35 points as host Jackson Community College improved to 1-2 overall by avenging a season-opening setback to Schoolcraft College, 94-85.

On Nov. 2, Jackson lost to the host Ocelots, 87-84.

Schoolcraft (1-5) got 23 points from 6-foot-6 freshman center Aaron Felsner.

C'ville Meet Team

Livonia Clarenceville will stage its Meet the Team Night for all winter sports athletes, parents and coaches beginning at 6 p.m. Monday, Nov. 23, at the high school cafeteria.

Topics include athletic and academic eligibility, sportsmanship, season schedule, team rules and consequences, team policies, and banquet information. Each coach will be available for a question and answer session.

A representative from Burke's Sporting Goods will be available to sell shoes and other winter sports apparel.

For more information, call (248) 919-0408; or e-mail athletic director Kevin Murphy at KMurphy@clarencville.k12.mi.us.

Bowl for icers

The Livonia Stevenson High hockey team will stage a bowling fundraiser beginning at 1 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 22, at Woodland Lanes, 33775 Plymouth Road, Livonia. If pre-registered, the \$20 ticket includes two games of bowling, shoe rental, two slices of pizza and soda. Check-in and lane assignments start at 12:30 p.m.

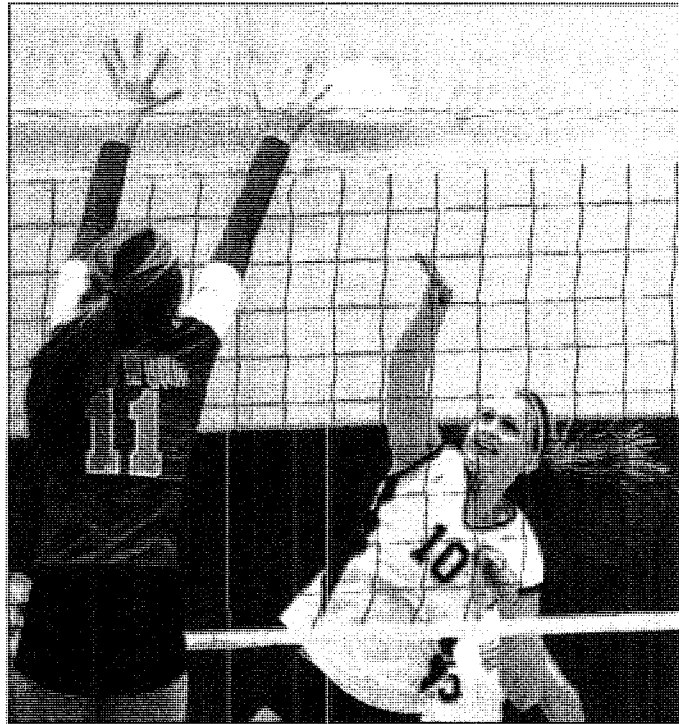
For more information, call Julie Sager at (734) 775-1114, or Sue Herrmann at (734) 522-7115.

Blazers' road leads to Battle Creek

BY BILL MCLEOD
GANNETT NEWS SERVICE

The future appears to be now for the Livonia Ladywood volleyball team. The Blazers rallied from a late four-point deficit in the first game and went on to defeat DeWitt, 25-23, 25-16, 25-18, in the state Class B girls quarterfinals Tuesday at Williamston. Ladywood, 40-22 overall, advances to play Delton Kellogg, 58-6-2 overall, in the state semifinals beginning at 7:15 p.m. Friday at Kellogg Arena in Battle Creek. "We have a lot of young kids, it was a work in process," Ladywood coach Erin Craggs said. "They have improved throughout the year. It's been fun to watch them mature as a team and as individual athletes." Craggs said she didn't expect to beat DeWitt (40-10) in three games. "We had watched some tape on them, they've got big middles and we anticipated big blocks from them," she said. "We came here ready for a hard-fought five-game battle." Under Craggs, Ladywood has rolled to an impressive eight district wins in the past nine years. She appears to be set for next season, with 11 underclassmen on the team. "It's the best feeling in the

world," Ladywood libero Ashley Hines said about the win. "We've won districts before, but we've never come this far before." Ashley Hines is one of the three seniors on the team. She had four aces and 23 digs. Senior Claire Dezelski contributed 15 kills and 21 digs, while sophomore setter Alexandra Hines had 36 assists. Sophomore Jennifer Rhodes chipped in with 12 kills. DeWitt looked to have the first game well in hand, taking a 23-19 lead on a pair of kills by Kelli VanderSteen. But the Blazers weren't ready to throw in the towel. Kills by Rhodes and a miscue by DeWitt gave the Blazers a 24-23 lead. An ace by Kristie Aurand then clinched the set. This wasn't the first time DeWitt dropped the opening set in postseason play. The Panthers lost their opener in three of their four previous matches. But this time the team couldn't overcome the loss. "We were up 20-14 in that first game ... we needed to close it out," DeWitt coach Christy Drayton said. "We lost that first game and that was the turning point. After we lost that first game our confidence went right downhill." DeWitt was unable to mount a successful run in the next two games. The Panthers struggled in the second game, falling behind 7-0.



Ladywood's Jennifer Rhodes (11) goes for the block against DeWitt in Tuesday's Class B state quarterfinal at Williamston.

They were never able to get closer than seven throughout the set. "I am proud of my team and proud of what we accomplished," VanderSteen said. "I think we could have handled them, but I think we kind of freaked out in the second game after losing the first game so closely. They were a good team, I will give them credit. They do have some great

hitters and they played great defense." VanderSteen paced DeWitt with 17 kills, 11 digs and two aces. Nicole Rowden, another DeWitt senior, had 24 assists. Junior Allison Griffiths finished with eight blocks.

Bill McLeod is a sports writer for the Lansing State Journal.

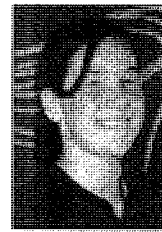
New voyage: GC's Derrick reaps crown

BY JIM TOTH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Karlee Derrick wasn't exactly sure what she was getting herself into when she signed on with Marygrove College last spring. All the 2009 Garden City High School graduate knew was she would be involved in establishing a foundation for the newly formed women's soccer program for years to come.

Well, the Mustang freshman — better make that all the Mustang freshmen — got much more than they bargained for as they collectively set their sights on a common goal, and lo and behold, achieved it when the team captured the 2009 U.S. Collegiate Athletic Association National Women's Soccer Championship.

Please see **DERRICK, B3**



Derrick

COLLEGE SOCCER

'09-10 outlook: Area icers eye improved campaigns

See capsule outlook of area teams.

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

It's redemption time for four area prep hockey teams. Time to make amends as Livonia Stevenson (12-8-5), Livonia Churchill (11-11-5), Livonia Franklin (0-24) and Livonia Ladywood (9-11-1) embark on a new season after so-so showings in 2008-09. Churchill, a Division 1 regional finalist a year ago, opens its season Friday night



Rochowiak

HOCKEY PREVIEW

against Farmington in the Metro Invitational at Novi Ice Arena. The Chargers lost first-team All-Area pick Dan Bostick to graduation, but return senior forward Mike Woynick, who got hot in the state playoffs with eight goals in three games after missing 11 games earlier in the year with a foot injury. "I think we will be able to score some goals and I think we have decent speed," Churchill ninth-year coach Pete Mazzoni said. "I like the grit that some of our players bring to the table. We play three games right out the gate, so we'll have to learn on the run."

Stevenson fell in the first round of the state playoffs to Northville, but the Spartans are optimistic led by first-team All-Observer forward Cole Rochowiak, a senior, who tallied 17 goals and 16 assists last season. He is joined by second-team All-Area pick Justin Shureb, a speedy junior forward, and senior goaltender Danny Sager. "This year's group is an older group," said third-year Stevenson coach David Mitchell, who hopes to contend in the KLA's Central Division. "We will feature 11 seniors and 11 juniors. This is one of the hardest working groups our coaching staff has been around." Meanwhile, Franklin hopes

to turn the corner under third-year coach Scott Wirgau after going winless in 2008-09. The Patriots are led by seniors Robbie Ringe and Jacob Wirgau, a pair of forwards. "This year's team is one year older, one year more mature, and with the additions of a few new players, we look to surprise a few people with a more competitive style of play," Scott Wirgau said. Livonia Ladywood lost its go-to player in Shelby Kucharski, a goal scoring machine who graduated. If the Blazers hope to contend in the Michigan Metro Girls High School Hockey League, they'll need some scoring from seniors Lane Kolpacke and Emann Freij,

along with junior transfer Jenny Rohn and freshman Hannah Periera. Ladywood has two returning defensemen in seniors Kaitlin Gaule and Julie Bushart. "The big question mark heading into the season is the offense," Ladywood ninth-year coach Bruce Peck said. "We lost about 90 percent of our scoring with Shelby Kucharski graduating. We obviously will need to replace that, but it won't be easy. I expect that we will be a much better team in the second half of the season once we get transfer student Jenny Rohn into the offensive rotation. It will be fun to watch the growth of this team during the year."

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NAA bid eludes 32-7 MU spikers

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

This wasn't the way it was supposed to end for the Madonna University women's volleyball team.

MU's string of 12 consecutive Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference titles came to an end Saturday at the Schaefer Center in Fort Wayne, Ind. as host Indiana Tech thwarted a valiant comeback by the Crusaders in the playoff championship final, 28-26, 25-20, 24-26, 23-25, 15-6.

But on Sunday night, the 32-7 Crusaders suffered a more cruel fate when they learned that their string of seven straight trips to the NAA Nationals would be coming to an end.

Hoping to secure one of nine at-large bids and a play-in match to the 36-team national field, 22nd-ranked MU came up one spot short after College of the Ozarks (Mo.) upset 14th-ranked Bellevue (Neb.) in the Midlands Collegiate Athletic Conference Tournament.

"They take 36 teams and we were the 37th," MU coach Jerry Abraham said. "We needed everybody ahead of us (in the polls) to win, but then Bellevue lost. It was a tough break because we seemed to be in. They (Bellevue) took the last wildcard."

"That's why it's important to win your way in and not depend on another team. Our whole intent was to secure our own destiny and not rely on others."

In the WHAC finals, the top-seeded Warriors, who improved to 31-9 overall, squandered a 22-16 third-set advantage as MU roared back with a 10-2 run led by senior outside hitter Mary McGinnis, who had five of her team-high 24 kills.

Behind Liz Dempsey's five kills and four more by McGinnis, MU jumped out to a 14-10 lead and evened the sets at 2-all in the fourth.

"I'm proud of the way we hung in there the third game, it was one of the best comebacks I've ever been a part of at Madonna," Abraham said.

"I like the way we fought hard and did not quit. It was a great comeback."

The Crusaders, however, had problems with serve-receive throughout the afternoon as Tech had a total of eight aces.

In the second game alone, Tech's 6-foot-2 junior Amber Birky served five aces, including three in a row to stake the

Warriors to a 7-4 advantage. "Serve-receive wasn't the problem the entire match, but we got into one bad stretch that second (game)," Abraham said. "It (serve-receive) was actually one of our strengths (in Friday's 3-1 semifinal win over Aquinas)."

"But usually at any volleyball level you can get out of sync passing and it's the simplest of all skills."

In the decisive fifth set, Indiana Tech took leads of 10-4 and 6-2 before closing out the match.

"That fifth (set) can be crazy and very tough," Abraham said. "It can go either way. It's whoever gains the momentum and takes it."

"We lost a heartbreaker the first game (26-28). Looking back there was point here and a point there that could have changed the whole tide."

Ashley Hamilton, honored as the WHAC Player of the Year, led the Warriors with 17 kills and 24 digs.

Erika Stouder added 15 kills, while Jasmine Battle contributed 12.

Dempsey, a junior from Livonia Franklin, added 17 kills and 14 digs, while senior setter Inta Grinvalds wound up with 50 assist-to-kills.

Amanda Koszela paced the defense with a game-high 29 digs, while Abby Long chipped in with 11.

The Crusaders had three players earn All-WHAC honors including McGinnis, Dempsey and Grinvalds, the latter who was also named Co-Setter of the Year.

But dreams of going to the NAA National Tournament (Dec. 1-3 in Sioux City, Ia.) for the 12th time in school history has been shelved.

"The season being cut short two weeks is unusual," Abraham said. "It was a fun season and a great group to work with. The kids worked extremely hard and were very committed. It was a season of ups-and-downs. We did not finish as strong as we began."

"We had a balanced team. And if we lacked anything, it was a go-to player like we had last year in Lubovj (Tihomirova). It wasn't a bad season, but one of our goals is to get NAAs. We have high expectations and it's a big let-down for the players. I'm sure there are teams we beat in the top 25 that are in the tourney. But it was a fun season. You just hate to see it end."

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Members of the Livonia Junior Athletic League's Falcon varsity football team recently completed a 10-0 season with a victory in the Super Bowl at EMU's Rynearson Stadium.



Members of the Livonia Junior Athletic League's Falcon junior varsity football team recently completed a 10-0 season with a victory in the Super Bowl at EMU's Rynearson Stadium.

Falcon Crest

LJAL Frost, JV, varsity gridgers go perfect 10-0

Never in the history of the Falcons' unit of the Livonia Junior Athletic League have all three football teams gone undefeated.

It happened on Saturday when the freshman (ages 8-9), junior varsity (9-10) and varsity (12-13) teams all won their Super Bowl games held at Eastern Michigan University's Rynearson Stadium.

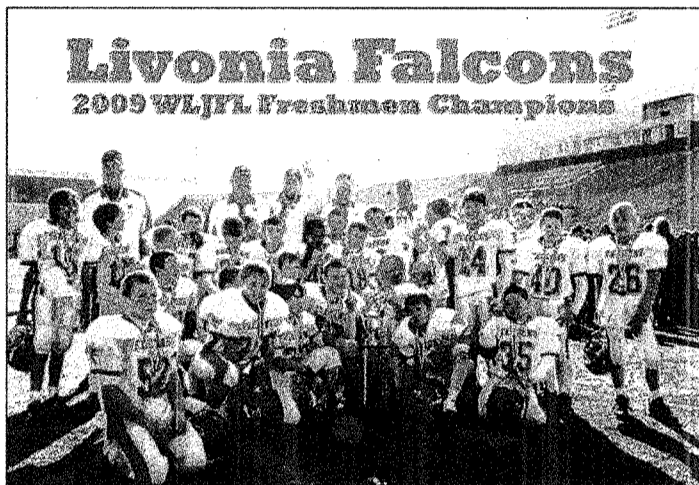
"We've got good kids who want to play football and a good group of dedicated coaches," Falcon Unit Director Mike Rotter said.

All three Falcon teams finished 10-0 on the year while earning titles in the Western Lakes Junior Football League.

The Falcon varsity, coached by Fred Miller, defeated the Walled Lake Braves in the Super Bowl, 41-19, after defeating the Commerce Chargers in the playoffs, 24-8.

Miller's assistant coaches are Sonny Micallef, Tom Goralski and Mike Wheeler.

Team members include: Brandon Beaune, Ethan Bidoul, Travis Bonner, Matthew Boris, Jack Cole, Kevin Collins, Austin Farwell, Jack Ferguson, Dominic Ferrera, Mario



Members of the Livonia Junior Athletic League's Falcon freshman football team recently completed a 10-0 season with a victory in the Super Bowl at EMU's Rynearson Stadium.

Ferrera, Thomas Gorzalski, Jake Ivey, Devin Kelly, Dominick Kolpacke, Chandler Langley, Sean McCann, Connor McQueen, Scott Mims, Robert Newman, Chadwick Northey, Quinn Rathgeber, Derek Rotter, Ross Shaw, Dylan Smith, Joey Spala, Heath Stilwell, Jonathan Wakefield, Lukas Walkuski and C.J. Weiss.

Meanwhile, the JV Falcons, coached by Bob Jarosz, defeated the Novi Bobcats, 30-22, and

the Northville Colts, 68-44, to cap off a perfect season.

Jarosz's assistants included Jim Beyer, Clint Shepley, Matt Cieslak and Daryl Bauer.

Team members include: Joe Alcantara, Luke Battjes, Jordan Bauer, Kevin Bowersox, Frank Carlin, Reece Edmonds, Sean Egan, Gordon Ferguson, Taylor Garpow, Zachary Gase, Max George, Matt Harding, Aaron Hipshier, Jacob Ingram, Vincent Jenaway, Daniel Kroll,

Spencer Langley, Hunter Martin, Nathan Micallef, David Moening, Alex Moore, Ross Pajak, Austin Petrie, Dominic Petro, Benjamin Piccard, Roman Plichota, Matthew Plue, Nick Poulos, Jimmy Seewald, John Suiter, Christian Vance, Connor Vaughn, Spencer Weber, Adam Wright and Dylan Zupko.

The Falcon freshmen, coached by Rob Shepley, downed the Rochester Ravens, 18-6, and the Walled Lake Braves, 18-0, to go 10-0.

Shepley's assistant included Mike Rotter, Rich Roy, John Dunn and Jim Spala.

Players include: Alex Bashista, Jacob Beaune, Connor Beck, Colin Bowersox, J.R. Brobst, Mike Brooks, Benjamin Cadoret, Devin Dunn, James Edney, George Ferguson, Camden Gould, Mike Harding, Cody Kanzler, Joseph Kubeshesky, Connor Lutton, Nicholas Lutton, Sean Miastkowski, Jack Micallef, Jack Mims, Joshua Page, Carter Philmister, Devin Poster, Alex Reeves, Scott Rushlow, John Schlack, Benjamin Sill, Jacob Spala, William Sweetman, Keegan Vaughn, Aaron Velu, Collin Warra and Dylan Zain.

Lady Ocelots rule Cincinnati State Classic

Amber Avery yanked down a career-high 19 rebounds and Angela Burrell scored a personal-best 18 points Saturday to lead a balanced scoring attack as the Schoolcraft College women's basketball team captured the Cincinnati State Classic with a 77-62 win over the host Surge.

The Lady Ocelots, ranked second in the latest NJCAA Division II poll, improved to 4-0 overall.

Schoolcraft led by only three at halftime, 33-30, before using a 24-10 run over the final eight

minutes to subdue Cincinnati State, which fell to 2-2 overall.

Also scoring in double figures for the Lady Ocelots was Avery (13), Jasmine Brown (12) and April Goins (10).

Brown and Emelda Chew (eight points) both were named to the All-Tournament team.

Schoolcraft shot 44.9 percent from the floor (31-of-69) and out-rebounded the Surge, 53-32.

Shardai Morrison-Fountain led the Surge and all scorers with 21 points, while Na'Tasha Farr

added 10. In Friday's Classic opener, Chew and Antania Shepherd each tallied 19 points as Schoolcraft downed Columbus State, 86-61.

Brown and Kimberly Bee added 16 and 12 points, respectively, while Avery added 12 as Schoolcraft improved to 3-0 overall.

The Ocelots jumped out to a 20-6 lead en route to a 51-31 halftime advantage. Schoolcraft then held the

Cougars to nine points over the first 10 minutes of the second half and led 63-40 at the halfway mark of the second half.

Bee and Shepherd each grabbed 10 rebounds, while Angela Burrell had six steals and four assists.

Schoolcraft made only 22-of-40 free throws (55 percent), but out-rebounded the Cougars, 55-30.

Chelsea Chaffin, hitting 18-of-18 free throws, led Columbus State (2-2) with 28 points.

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VOLLEYBALL

FROM PAGE B1

digs.

Urbats and the Kempinski sisters, Kara and Nicole, each added 13 digs.

"We played great defense and got a lot of touches," Churchill coach Mark Grenier said. "We played great defense. And along with our ball control, we're able to frustrate other teams by keeping the ball in play. Then we're

able to go into transition to kids who swing well."

Churchill also got some unexpected help from 5-10 sophomore Erin Menard, who finished with six kills and the match-winning block.

"Our middle hitter combination of Emily Norscia, who's a freshman, Christine Maleske and Menard needed to take the pressure off our outside hitters and get some points," Grenier said. "That's our first line of defense and they got a lot of touches and scored some points

for us."

Airport, which finished 46-6-1 overall, was led by the 6-2 Nagy, who had 13 kills. Erz, also 6-2, added 11 kills and three blocks.

"We got outplayed," Airport coach Barb Kohn said. "They (Churchill) are a good team. They dug up everything and they abused the heck out of our block."

The Jets, leading 24-19 in the second set, appeared to have the match tied at 1-all before Churchill went on a 7-0 run led by Suppelsa's two kills and two blocks.

"You've got to finish it off," Kohn said. "We needed to win that Game Two. Defensively we fell apart because our block was not doing enough. And we did not pass enough to get the ball to our middle hitter (Nagy). I think we got frustrated because they were blocking her."

As a freshman, Suppelsa was a member of Churchill's 2007 Winter Season Class A state championship team.

Now the Chargers are just one win away from reaching the finals again.

"Watching and being on that state championship team made we want to work hard," Suppelsa said. "I'd like to thank my teammates for my success. It feels great. There's no way to describe the feeling. Tonight I had the adrenaline pumping and I knew I had to step up as a senior."

Meanwhile, Grenier couldn't hand out enough superlatives about his senior attacker.

"She's been doing it all year," he said. "She's aggressive and she can do a lot of different type of shots. What we're doing right

now is because of her."

Churchill's next opponent, Portage Central, advanced in four games with a 12-25, 25-11, 25-22, 25-14 quarterfinal win Tuesday over Rockford.

"That's a great win for them, and they did it without one of their top players (Kristina Krautmanis), which says everything," Grenier said. "They're a big team that hits well. We'll have to game-plan similar to what we did against Airport."

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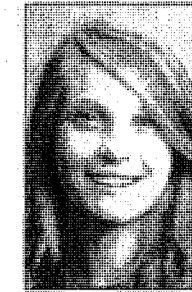
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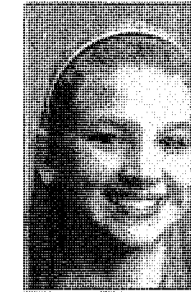
Gabby DeFlorio Farmington



Kerigan Riley Churchill



Jordyn Moore Salem



Shannon Flynn Salem



Kara Booms Salem



Katie Rash Churchill

Area girls harriers get leg up on the field

FIRST TEAM

SARA KROLL, SR., LIV. CHURCHILL: The senior enjoyed a banner season placing third in the Division 1 state finals (18:10.7) to earn All-State honors for the third straight year.

Kroll was also KLAAs Kensington Conference champ with a meet record 17:54 (for 5,000 meters).

Among her other accomplishments was a school-record 17:25.2 along with firsts at the Wayne County (meet record), Jackson (course record) and KLAAs Livonia Invitational champion and set a course record at the challenging Cass Benton Park (17:54.1).

The Churchill MVP and two-time All-Stater in track (800) also holds the Churchill freshman record (18:27.9).

Kroll is being aggressively recruited by Illinois, Michigan State and Michigan.

"Sara is the type of athlete that most coaches only dream of coaching," Churchill coach Sue Tatro said. "It has been an absolute privilege these past four seasons, and definitely one of the biggest highlights of my career."

"She is the whole package when it comes to an elite runner. She possesses talent, intelligence, drive, passion, and leadership. What more can a coach ask for in an athlete. Sara proved that she is not only one of the best runners in the state, but also in the country. I am looking forward to seeing what this talented athlete will do in the future."

MEGAN MCPHERSON, JR., LIV. FRANKLIN: The junior, who bowed out of the state finals with an injury, was regional champion (18:37.3) and Kensington Conference runner-up (18:37.4).

McPherson also placed third at the Wayne County meet with a personal best and school-record time of 18:26.4.

The school-record holder at Cass Benton, Nankin Mills and Willow Metropark courses, McPherson added runner-up honors at the KLAAs Invitational (18:37.3), placed 12th at the Michigan State Invitational (18:44.0), and won at Monroe-Jefferson (18:35.0).

The two-time state qualifier was 32nd in the MHSAA finals as a sophomore.

"Megan had an outstanding season where she ran some terrific races," Franklin coach Dave Bjorklund said. "She was always prepared for the level of competition and the conditions of each course. Every time she raced she made me so proud because she executed per-

fectly. Her best races were down the stretch at the Wayne County, conference, and regional meets.

"She ran under 19-minutes seven times this year and established herself as one of the elite runners in the area and state. Although she was injured at the state meet (rotated pelvic bone), everything is O.K. now and she'll be back next year with a vengeance."

VICTORIA TRIPP, JR., SALEM: The junior qualified for the D-1 state meet for a second straight year when she placed seventh at the regional finals with a time of 19-minutes, 34-seconds. At the state meet, she finished 31st with a time of 19:24.8.

She also registered her personal best time of 19:05.9 at the Wayne County Championship, the third fastest time in Salem history for 5,000 meters.

Other highlights included being named the team's Most Valuable Runner, taking fifth place at the Kensington Conference Finals (19:29) and sixth at the Wayne County Championship (19:05.9).

"Victoria's a talented young lady who strives to be the best she can every competition," said Rocks coach Dave Gerlach, whose team won its first Kensington Conference title. "Tori loves to compete. Tori has very high goals and expectations for herself and works to achieve them every day."

BIANCA KUBICKI, JR., CANTON: The junior had an excellent season, finishing seventh at the D-1 regionals and 35th at the state meet.

Kubicki's season's best mark was 19:07, close to her career best — a time of 18:54, which is a Canton school mark she shares with another runner.

Chiefs coach Eric Pahl said Kubicki developed into a team leader so much that teammates named her the 2010 captain.

Honors included being 1st-team picks for the all-county and all-conference teams.

"Bianca has really dedicated herself to cross country this year," Pahl said. "She trained all summer and came into the season in good running shape."

"She was asked to take on many different challenges with the team. Not only did she succeed in this, but she excelled."

GABBY DEFLORIO, SOPH., FARMINGTON: The sophomore placed fourth at Brighton regional with her best time of the season (18:50). DeFlorio was 68th in the D-1 state meet. She won the Farmington city meet and was

2009 ALL-OBSERVER GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY FIRST TEAM

Sara Kroll, Sr., Liv. Churchill
Megan McPherson, Jr., Liv. Franklin
Victoria Tripp, Jr., Salem
Bianca Kubicki, Jr., Canton
Gabby DeFlorio, Soph., Farmington
Kerigan Riley, Jr., Liv. Churchill
Jordyn Moore, Sr., Salem
Shannon Flynn, Fr., Salem
Katie Rash, Jr., Liv. Churchill

SECOND TEAM

Sydney Anderson, Fr., Liv. Churchill
Christie Goodwin, Fr., N. Farmington
Paula Green, Sr., Plymouth
Ade Jepperson, Fr., Salem
Kelly Kerwin, Soph., Salem
Lydia Macklin-Camel, Sr., Farmington
Bethany Pilat, Soph., Liv. Churchill
Olivia Salinas, Soph., Farmington
Amanda Southwell, Sr., Liv. Churchill
Britta Swanson, Jr., Plymouth
Nicole Traites, Soph., Plymouth
Angela Wright, Soph., N. Farmington

COACH OF THE YEAR

Dave Gerlach, Salem

HONORABLE MENTION

Churchill: Alexis Hickson, Sarah Bauman, Lisa McMullen, Melissa Roe, Jenna Szuba, Megan McDonald, Rachel Tomassi, Vivien Okechukwu, Tiffany Raisanen, Jessica Raisanen; Franklin: Tiffany Lambie, Brittany Dilley, Leslie Gomez, Megan Wickens; Stevenson: Julia Capeneka, Victoria Saferian, Taylor Cieslak; John Glenn: Kirsten Smith, Ashley Bailey, Mary Dreher, Abbey Wright; Wayne: Holland Boertje; Lutheran Westland: Sarah Maynard, Erin Lyle, Jess Rice; Ladywood: Meredith Houska, DeYana Walker; Canton: Rachel Rohrbach, Emily Southern, Katherine Grimes, Cassie Kramer, Melanie Kulczyk, Rache Brunk; Plymouth: Julie Forster, Julie Hahn; Salem: Autumn Burin, Emily Bizon, Amanda Beyer, Shannon Fitzpatrick; Farmington: Alexina Salinas, Sierra Resovsky, Michelle Mac; N. Farmington: Cherie Gaines, Maria Vicini; Harrison: Cameron Chism, Catherine Barkach; Mercy: Katie Clark, Mary Bridget Welch, Heather Smith, Mary Haapala.

second in the OAA White Division meet.

DeFlorio also finished 18th at Oakland County, sixth at the Haslett Invite and 13th at the MSU Spartan Invite. She was undefeated in dual meets.

"Gabby improved her time on almost every course we ran, anywhere from 30 seconds to a minute," coach Chip Bridges said. "At a certain point last track season, Gabby decided she wanted to be the best runner she could be. She decided to take running seriously, and she has gotten better and better since then."

"She won our Most Improved Runner Award, too. She improved 1:28 over her best time last year. Nobody improved more this year than Gabby did. She followed the workout plan through summer and fall more closely than any girl on the team. It's not that other girls did a poor job; she just did the best job."

KERIGAN RILEY, JR., LIV. CHURCHILL: The freshman burst onto the scene with some impressive performances including an eighth at the regional (19:46.8); 12th in the Kensington Conference; and 17th at the Division 1 finals.

She also took third at the Public Schools of Livonia Invitational,

ninth at the KLAAs Invitational (19:57.0) and 14th at the Jackson Invitational (19:11.0).

Riley turned in a season-best 19:04.8, 10th fastest in Churchill history en route to Most Valuable Freshman honors.

"Kerigan is definitely one of the most successful freshmen to come through our program," Tatro said. "She possesses a great deal of talent, motivation, passion, and desire. It was obvious during her middle school years that she was going to come to Churchill and have an immediate impact on our program. I am really looking forward to seeing what Kerigan will accomplish in her future cross country and track seasons at CHS."

JORDYN MOORE, SR., SALEM: Team captain and "Senior of the Year" for the Rocks, Moore also excelled on the courses throughout the season.

At the Division 1 regionals, she took 11th place with a time of 19:51.1 to qualify for the state meet for a third consecutive year. At the finals, she finished 65th (19:58.1).

Other top showings included a personal best of 19:24.1 at the Jackson Invitational (Sharp Park), which Gerlach said is the seventh fastest time recorded by a Salem

runner.

Moore tallied a 10th-place finish at the Kensington Conference Finals and 13th at the Wayne County Championship, held at Salem's home course (Willow Metropark).

"Jordyn is a true leader who places the team goals as high as her personal goals," Gerlach said. "Jordyn is a true competitor who knows what it takes to be successful."

"Jordyn is a very goal-oriented athlete and works extremely hard to achieve those goals."

SHANNON FLYNN, FR., SALEM: Making an immediate impact, Flynn qualified for the D-1 state finals by way of her 12th-place finish at the regionals (19:51.6).

She ran 20:03.6 at the state meet for 70th place, but that didn't spoil the accomplishment. Others included tallying Salem's third fastest time for a freshman in school history (for 5,000 meters) with her 19:49.2 at the Wayne County Championship, which was her personal best.

Flynn also finished in 11th place at the Kensington Conference Finals (19:51) and 15th at the Wayne County meet.

"Shannon is an all-around athlete who is very competitive," Gerlach said. "Shannon has unlimited potential as a distance runner and has already experience much success."

"This team is looking forward to what else she can accomplish."

KARA BOOMS, JR., SALEM: The Rocks' "Junior of the Year," Booms emerged this season. She qualified for the D-1 state meet with her 16th-place time of 20:22.2 seconds at the regionals.

Other highlights included finishing with a personal best of 20:07.0 at the Kensington Conference Finals (9th-best time in school history for a junior), good for 16th place and a 21st-place showing at the Wayne County Championship (20:16.8).

"Kara is a very passionate athlete whose love of running carries over to the team," Gerlach said. "Kara had a breakout year this season to provide Salem with a solid fifth runner."

"Kara is one of the most consistent distance runners who knows when to step up."

KATIE RASH, JR., LIV. CHURCHILL: The junior ran a personal best 19:56.7 at the Jackson Invitational.

Rash wound up 82nd in the Division 1 finals (20:10.1); 16th at the regional (20:27.9) and 22nd at the Wayne County Invitational (20:31.0). She added a 28th at the Wayne County meet (20:31.0).

"Katie really stepped it up this season and ran like a mature and experienced runner," Tatro said. "I

always knew that she possessed a great deal of talent, and she proved to herself and others that she is capable of running some great races."

"It was truly a joy watching Katie shine during the season. She capped off a great season by having a great performance at the state meet. I am looking forward to watching her continue to excel at this new level."

COACH OF THE YEAR

DAVE GERLACH, SALEM: For the second time in his distinguished coaching career at Salem, Gerlach was named Coach of the Year by the *Observer* and with good reason. Gerlach's team not only won the KLAAs Central Division with an undefeated record in dual meets, the Rocks captured their first-ever Kensington Conference Championship.

Salem qualified as a team for the Division 1 state finals and did well, placing eighth.

And Salem won the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park championship for the first time since 2006.

With a firm, but fair approach, Gerlach teaches and motivates the girls to become successful runners.

"It is a great honor to receive Coach of the Year from the *Observer* and my fellow coaches," said Gerlach who lives in Canton with his wife Kimberly, daughter Emilee and step-daughter Adriane. "Over 15 years of coaching at Salem we have tried to instill a tradition and quality program for these young ladies."

"We try to lead by example and are as passionate about the sport as we expect our athletes to be."

Gerlach said he lays the knowledge and groundwork for success, but "the rest of accountability lies on the athletes to follow through and work hard."

"This group has been so much fun to coach because they wanted to be good and had high goals," he added. "They were very passionate and worked very hard to achieve their individual and team goals."

The 2009 Rocks were a team that meshed well in all aspects, Gerlach said.

"We had terrific team chemistry this season with a great balance or experienced athletes and talented rookies," he continued. "For me it was a great pleasure to be a part of this season's team success and these young ladies deserve all the credit."



Dave Gerlach Salem coach

PREP HOCKEY CAPSULE OUTLOOK

LIVONIA CHURCHILL

Head coach: Pete Mazzoni, ninth season.
League affiliation: KLAAs Kensington Conference (South Division).

Last year's overall record: 11-11-5.

Notable losses to graduation: Dan Bostick (first-team All-Area), Adam Wiegand (second-team All-Area), Brent Mishowski, Alec Smythe, Robert Louwers, Ryan Cioch.

Leading returnees: Mike Woynick, Sr. F; Christo Papaioannou, Sr. F; Scott Hamill, Sr. F; Drew Carlson, Sr. F; Steven Klisz, Jr. F; Mike Kutek, Jr. F; Jacob Otto, Soph. F; Joe Williams, Jr. Def.; Jim Lelekatch, Soph. Def.; Aaron Crouse, Sr. G; Alex Estes, Soph. G.

Promising newcomers: Yanni Kefallinos.

Sr. F: Justin Mikitaroff, Sr. Def.; Tony Mifsud, Sr. F; Cam Benson, Jr. F; Chris Mireles, Soph. Def.; Devin Smythe, Soph. F.

Mazzoni's 2009-10 outlook: "We have many new faces and need to get everyone on the same page as soon as possible. Everyone appears to be in pretty good shape and willing to work, and I think all of our kids have improved over the offseason. The KLAAs is tough and we need to be ready to play every night out. The league has improved."

LIVONIA FRANKLIN

Head coach: Scott Wirgau, third season.
League affiliation: KLAAs Kensington Conference (South Division).

Last year's overall record: 0-24.

Notable losses to graduation: Jordan Chisholm, Tyler Barnes.

Leading returnees: Robbie Ringe, Sr. F (captain); Jacob Wirgau, Sr. F; Danny Donahue, Soph. Def.

Promising newcomers: Phillip Mitchell, Sr. F; Anthony Crechiolo, Sr. G.

Wirgau's 2009-10 outlook: "Last year's team was made up of young, inexperienced players that worked hard and improved as the year progressed. However, started to far behind the rest of the league to catch up. With the hard work that is already behind this team, it gave us a great building block to add to over the summer."

LIVONIA STEVENSON

Head coach: David Mitchell, third season.

League affiliation: KLAAs Kensington Conference (Central Division).

Last year's overall record: 12-8-5.

Notable losses to graduation: John Vella (first-team All-Area); R.J. Kierdorf, Jake Wilson, Jake Hermann.

Leading returnees: Cole Rochowiak, Sr. F (first-team All-Area); Justin Shureb, Jr. F (second-team All-Area); Danny Sager, Sr. G; Evan Malick, Sr. F; Jake Poynter, Sr. Def.; Jake Vert, Sr. Def.; Trevor Baruzzini, Sr. F; Matt Fox, Sr. F; John Strauch, Sr. F.

Promising newcomers: Andrew

Palushaj, Jr. F; John Mandryk, Jr. F; Brendan Hay, Jr. Def.

Mitchell's 2009-10 outlook: "With the highly competitive schedule we have this season, we need to be prepared to play each and every night. We are very much looking forward to this season and building on the Stevenson hockey tradition."

LIVONIA LADYWOOD

Head coach: Bruce Peck, ninth season.

League affiliation: Michigan Metro Girls High School Hockey League.

Last year's overall record: 9-11-1.

Titles won last year: Catholic League champions.

Notable losses to graduation: Shelby

Kucharski (first-team All-State; All-Michigan Metro).

Leading returnees: Kaitlin Gaule, Sr. Def.; Julie Bushart, Sr. Def.; Emann Freij, Sr. F; Lane Kolpacke, Soph. F; Jessica Pavela, Jr. G.

Promising newcomers: Hannah Periera, Fr. F; Jenny Rohn, Jr. F.

Peck's 2009-10 outlook: "We have a good core of players returning from last year's squad. It's a great group of seniors with excellent leadership should prove to be very beneficial this season. Our entire defense is back, which should keep us in a lot of games."

THE WEEK AHEAD

PREP FOOTBALL

Friday, Sept. 25

Churchill at Plymouth, 7 p.m.
John Glenn at Franklin, 7 p.m.
Northville at Stevenson, 7 p.m.
Canton at Wayne, 7 p.m.

Luth. North at Clarenceville, 7 p.m.

Oak Christian at Luth. Westland, 7 p.m.

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

Thursday, Sept. 24

Roeper at Luth. Westland, 6:30 p.m.
Canton at Churchill, 6:30 p.m.
Stevenson at Salem, 6:30 p.m.
A.A. Pioneer at Franklin, 7 p.m.
John Glenn at Wayne, 7 p.m.

BOYS & GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY

Saturday, Sept. 26

Monroe-Jeff. Inv. at Sterling Park, 9 a.m.

CC Invitational at Cass Benton, 10 a.m.

GIRLS SWIMMING & DIVING

Thursday, Sept. 24

Churchill at Wayne, 6:30 p.m.

Franklin at Canton, 6:30 p.m.

Ladywood vs. Monroe St. Mary CC at Livonia Comm. Rec. Center, 7 p.m.

Friday, Sept. 25

Canton at Wayne, 4 p.m.

Luth. Westland at Univ.-Liggett, 4:30 p.m.

Franklin Road at Huron Valley, 4:30 p.m.

Harper Woods at Clarenceville, 5 p.m.

Churchill at Plymouth, 7 p.m.

Franklin at John Glenn, 7 p.m.

Stevenson at Novi, 7 p.m.

Friday, Sept. 25

John Glenn at Garden City, 4 p.m.

Macomb Christian at Huron Valley, 4:30 p.m.

BOYS & GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY

Saturday, Sept. 26

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Ladywood vs. Monroe St. Mary CC at Livonia Comm. Rec. Center, 7 p.m.

Friday, Sept. 25

A.A. Pioneer at Stevenson, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 26

Lakeland Invitational, noon.

Rock-Kilgore Inv. at Salem, noon.

GIRLS GOLF

Thursday, Sept. 24

Ladywood vs. Marian at St. John's G.C., 3 p.m.

Franklin vs. Thurston at Idyl Wild G.C., 3 p.m.

BOYS TENNIS

Thursday, Sept. 24

Churchill at Lakeland, 4 p.m.

John Glenn at W.L. Western, 4 p.m.

Franklin at Waterford Mott, 4 p.m.

Wayne at Waterford Kettering, 4 p.m.

Stevenson at Howell, 4 p.m.

GIRLS FIELD HOCKEY

Thursday, Sept. 24

Ladywood at Washenaw Whippets, 4:30 p.m.

WOMEN'S COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL

Thursday, Sept. 24

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PRE-SALE PRICES AS OF NOV. 20

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TRADITIONAL WASHER	MVWC7ESWW*	\$599.00	\$499.00	WHITE
	MVWC400VW*	\$509.00	\$399.00	WHITE
TRADITIONAL DRYER	MGDC700VW*	\$649.00	\$524.00	WHITE
	MEDC700VW*	\$579.00	\$499.00	WHITE
	MGDC400VW*	\$529.00	\$424.00	WHITE
	MEDC400VW*	\$429.00	\$399.00	WHITE
FRONT LOAD WASHER	MAH2400AWW*	\$749.00	\$599.00	WHITE
	MHWZ600TW*	\$949.00	\$699.00	WHITE
	MHWE300VW*	\$1,099.00	\$699.00	WHITE
	MHWE450WW*	\$1,399.00	\$1,099.00	WHITE
HE DRYER	MDE2400AYW*	\$749.00	\$599.00	WHITE
	MGDZ600TW*	\$1,029.00	\$799.00	WHITE
	MGDE300WW*	\$1,179.00	\$725.00	WHITE
	MEDE300WW*	\$1,099.00	\$699.00	WHITE
MICROWAVE -OTR	MMV5207BAW*	\$419.00	\$275.00	WHITE
	MMV1153WW*	\$219.00	\$175.00	WHITE
	MMV1153WB*	\$219.00	\$175.00	BLACK
ELECTRIC RANGE	AER3311WAW*	\$351.00	\$299.00	WHITE
	AER5830VAW*	\$599.00	\$499.00	WHITE
	MER7662WW*	\$649.00	\$549.00	WHITE
	MER7662WB*	\$649.00	\$549.00	BLACK
	MER7662WS*	\$749.00	\$649.00	STAINLESS
GAS RANGE	AGR3311WAW*	\$351.00	\$299.00	WHITE
	MGR7662WW*	\$649.00	\$549.00	WHITE
	MGR7662WB*	\$649.00	\$549.00	BLACK
	MGR7662WS*	\$749.00	\$649.00	STAINLESS
WALL OVEN	JJW7530DDB*	\$1,149.00	\$399.00	BLACK
DISHWASHER	MDBM601AWQ*	\$479.00	\$299.00	BISQ
	MDB5601AWQ*	\$479.00	\$299.00	BISQ
	MDB6701AWW*	\$599.00	\$399.00	WHITE
	MDB6701AWQ*	\$599.00	\$399.00	BISQ
TOP FREEZER	M1TXEMMWW*	\$899.00	\$759.00	WHITE
SIDE X SIDE	MSD2542VEW*	\$999.00	\$875.00	WHITE
BOTTOM FREEZER	MBF2556KEW*	\$1,599.00	\$1,324.00	WHITE
	MFD2562VEW*	\$1,799.00	\$1,499.00	WHITE

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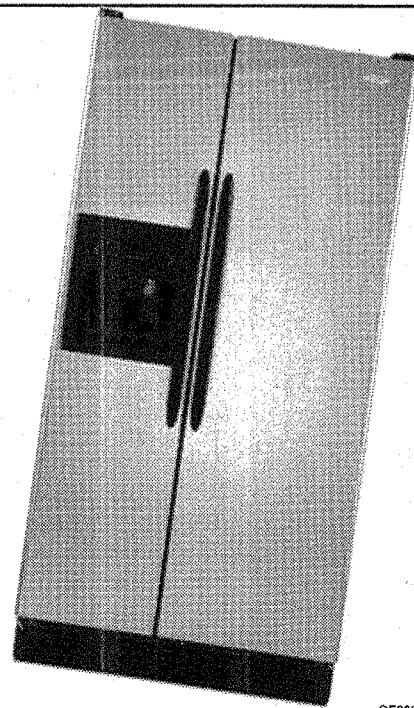
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Westland-Garden City Strictly Business

IT'S YOUR BUSINESS Q&A



Martin Zoro, who always decorated his family's home for the holidays, started Zoro's Christmas Lights in 2004.

Zoro's decorates home, business for the holidays

Zoro's Christmas Lights of Livonia has been in business since 2004, decorating homes and businesses for the holidays. The company of eight employees has decorations of all sorts for all holidays, but it specializes in Christmas lights and decor. Chief executive officer Martin Zoro answered the following questions about the business:

Observer: Tell us about your business, including the types of services and/or products you feature.
My business is about decorations — decorations for any holiday, parties and events. Service includes renting lights to buying lights or just needing labor help. Products include LED lights.

Observer: What makes your business unique?
My business is different because we offer a five-year guarantee on your Christmas lights. Also, we offer free removal and free storage.

Observer: How did you first decide to open your own business?
Well, I always did



Customers can rent or buy lights from Zoro's, or, if they already own lights, they can hire Zoro's just for the labor.

Observer: How did you decide to locate in Livonia?
Well, I work out of my house to cut costs. And it's more efficient when you have your own office at home.

Observer: Do you have a funny tidbit or story to share with our readers about your experience so far as a small business owner?
Well, one of my customers wanted Christmas lights put on her house on Dec. 22. She had just found out her mother-in-law was coming. She did not want to hear her nag because she didn't do Christmas lights for her kids.

Observer: How do you manage your business?
Zoro's Christmas Lights is open 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. seven days a week. For more information, call (248) 408-6393 or visit www.zorochristmaslights.com.

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BUSINESS NEWSMAKERS

New tenant

Centro Properties Group announced a 24,920-square foot lease has been executed with Planet Fitness at Westland Crossing, located on the northwest corner of Warren and Wayne Roads in Westland.

Centro Properties Group is the owner of Westland Crossing. Centro Properties Group is the second largest owner of community and neighborhood shopping centers in the United States

Top workplace

DFCU Financial, Michigan's largest credit union, was recently named to the Detroit Free Press "Top Workplaces" list for the second consecutive year. In addition, for the sixth consecutive year, the credit union has been named one of Metropolitan Detroit's 101 Best and Brightest Companies to Work For.

According to Mark Shobe, president and CEO of DFCU Financial, "It has been the most challenging year for our local economy that any of us has ever experienced and yet we remain one of the highest performing credit unions in the nation. Our preferred employer status and consistent strong performance are a direct result of our employees' col-

lective teamwork and commitment to excellence." The 101 Best and Brightest Companies to Work For Award, sponsored by the Michigan Business and Professional Association (MBPA), recognizes best practices in companies today and is awarded based upon employee input.

Like the 101 Best and Brightest, the "Top Workplaces" list identifies the leading workplaces in the Detroit area based upon the opinions of employees. DFCU Financial employees were e-mailed a survey and the results of which were compared across hundreds of nominated organizations. DFCU Financial, headquartered in Dearborn, is Michigan's largest credit union with \$2.5 billion in assets. DFCU Financial currently operates 12 full-service branches in the metro area, including an office on Merriman at Warren Road in Garden City. For more information, go online to www.dfcufinancial.com.

Leadership training

Meredith R. Phillips, chief privacy officer at Henry Ford Health System, was selected to participate in Leadership Detroit Class XXXI, a year-long community leadership program

to enhance leadership skills and gain insight and knowledge of regional issues among senior-level executives in southeast Michigan.

Phillips, a Westland resident, is one of 63 local leaders selected to participate in the program for this year's 31st class of Leadership Detroit. Participants represent a cross-section of the community, including business, organized labor, government, education, media, civic groups, health services and community organizations.

"Meredith is a leader in our organization," said J. Douglas Clark, chief compliance officer of Henry Ford Health System. "The experience she will gain through participation in Leadership Detroit will encourage her to inspire others from our organization to become involved in Detroit's community to affect change in our region."

Leadership Detroit works to connect leaders from metro Detroit to raise awareness of key issues that affect the Detroit region and inspire change. More than 1,800 program alumni are working in leadership positions in the region, throughout Michigan and across the country.

BUSINESS MILESTONES

SPECIAL EVENTS

Good Neighbor Day

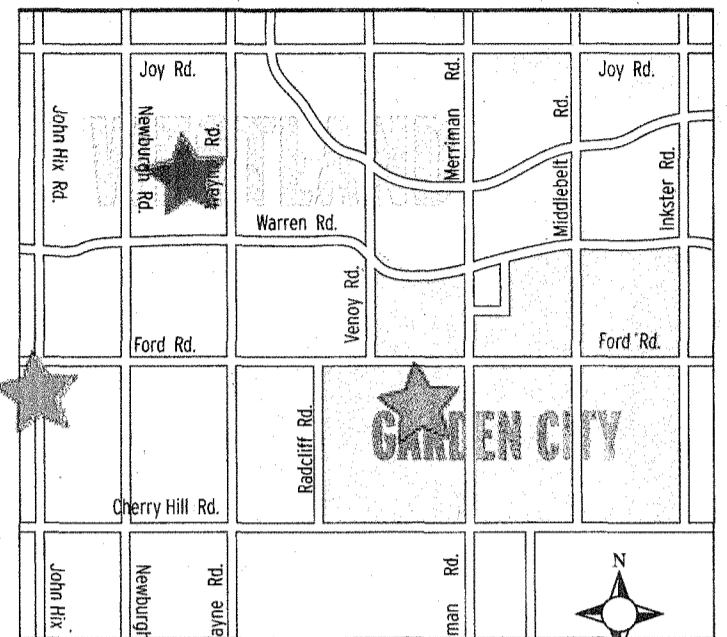
Time/date: 1-4 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 22
Location: Kroger locations around southeast Michigan
Details: Forgotten Harvest volunteers will be on-site collecting both food and cash donations. Volunteers will provide participating shoppers with a list of perishable food items needed for donation. Cash donations will support the operations of Forgotten Harvest to rescue fresh, nutritious food from a variety of sources to be delivered to its food providers, same-day, free-of-charge.

Give a Gobble

Time/date: Thursday, Nov. 18
Location: Curves, 8323 N. Wayne Road, north of Warren Road, Westland
Details: Westland Curves is collecting items for Thanksgiving dinners for the needy. Curves will waive the initial service fee for any new member who brings in either a turkey or a \$30 contribution. Current members can add 30 days free to their membership by bringing in 10 pounds of non-parishable Thanksgiving dinner food items. All to be donated to local churches and food pantries. The festivities will include turkey calling (no, not for your husbands), recipe exchanges and pin the feathers on the turkey, all for great gifts.
Contact: (734) 458-5004

Health screening

Time/date: 9 a.m. Monday, Nov. 30
Location: Merriman Road Baptist Church, 2055 Merriman, Garden City
Details: The church is hosting a Life Line Screening. Screenings identify potential cardiovascular conditions such



as blocked arteries and irregular heart rhythm, abdominal aortic aneurysms, and hardening of the arteries in the legs, which is a strong predictor of heart disease. A bone density screening to assess osteoporosis risk is also offered and is appropriate for both men and women. Packages start at \$139. All five screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete.
Contact: Call 1-877-237-1287 for an appointment or visit the Web site at www.lifelinescreening.com Pre-registration is required.

Toy/Food Drive

Time/Date: 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday-Friday
Location: National Storage Center, 39205 Ford,
Details: National Storage Center is doing its part for the community this year by collecting donations of non-perishable food and new unwrapped toys.
Contact: (734) 981-0700

Thanksgiving buffet

Time/date: Thursday, Nov. 26

Location: Marvaso's Italian Grille, 6569 N. Wayne Road, north of Hunter, Westland

Details: Marvaso's will be serving an all-you-can-eat Thanksgiving buffet, featuring such entrees as turkey, smoked ham, whitefish scallopini and cherry chicken farfalle, with side dishes like stuffing, garlic mashed potatoes, fresh garden salad, cranberry sauce apple/cherry cobbler, chocolate mousse cheese cake and pumpkin pie. The price is \$18.99 for adults and \$9.99 for children age 4-11. Children under age 4 eat free.
Contact: (734) 405-5222

Holiday Taste Fest

Time/date: 6-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 1
Location: Hellenic Cultural Center, 36375 Joy Road, east of Newburgh, Westland
Details: It's an indoor version of the popular summer Restaurant Rally. Sample foods from a selection of Westland restaurants for just \$25 per person.
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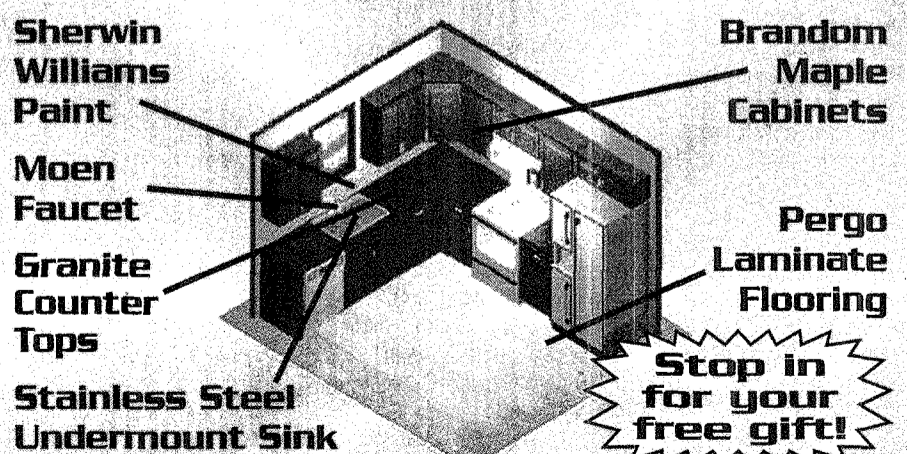
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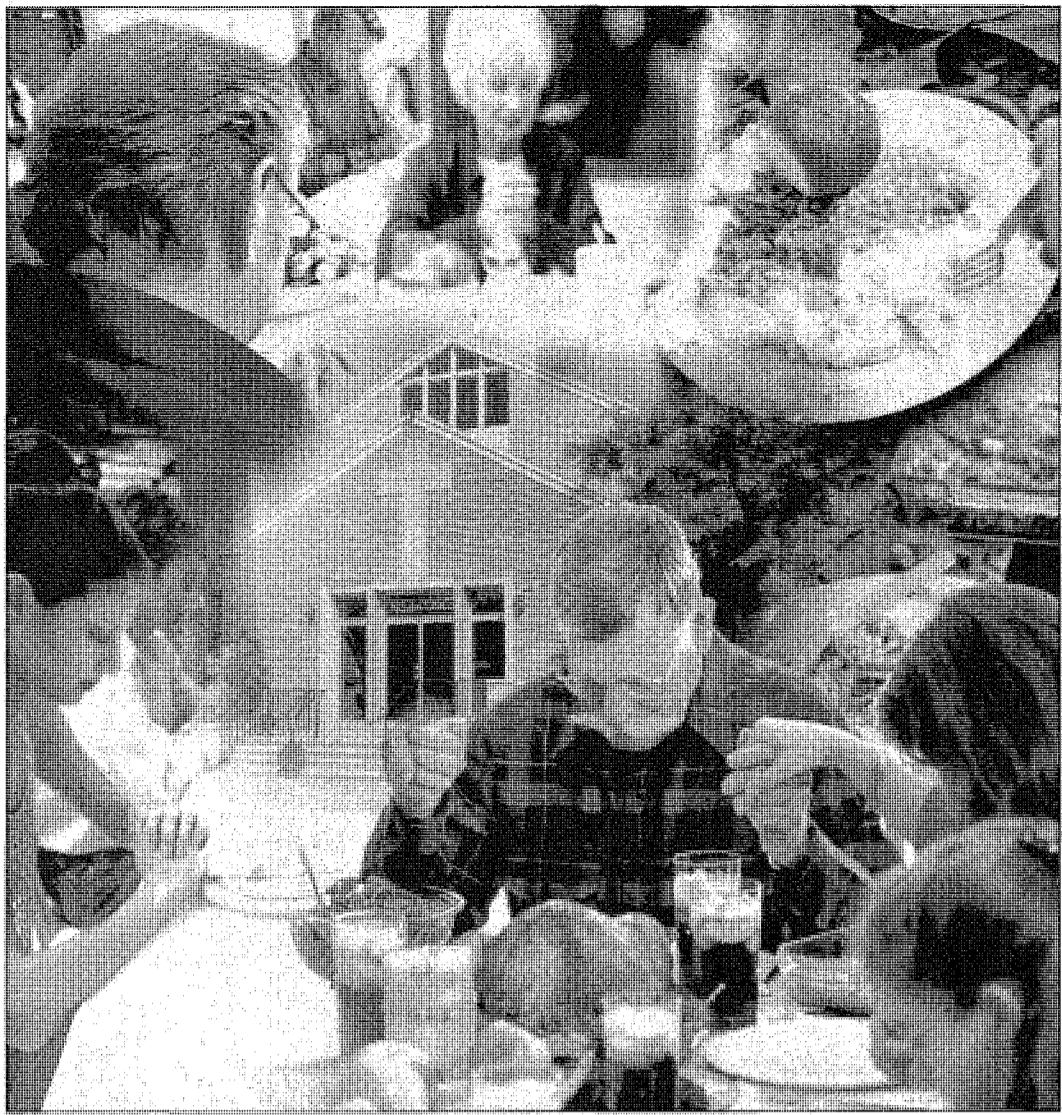


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Redford couple, church cook Thanksgiving dinner for all

BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER

Karen and Don McCuean will start Thanksgiving Day this year like they always do - cooking up enough turkey and trimmings for 400 people.

"We do real turkeys - nothing processed - turkey and gravy, mashed potato - that's real, not boxed," said Karen McCuean. "The sweet potato is fresh. There's stuffing with sausage. We do creamed corn, cornbread and a vegetable medley. I put Swiss cheese and mushroom soup in. I do a gourmet coleslaw with cranberry and celery and apple. It's like a Waldorf with homemade poppy seed dressing and there's a pistachio salad."

"Then there are relishes and rolls and butter. We have assorted pies and they come from St. Colette (in Livonia). They have a piefest the day before Thanksgiving and everyone brings a pie to share and a pie to donate to charity. They donate all their pies to our Thanksgiving dinner."

The Redford couple puts on a feast and invites anyone who wants to share the holiday. Volunteers from their church, Our Lady of Loretto in Redford, and donations from generous supporters have helped continue the tradition, which marks nine years next week.

"If it wasn't for them we couldn't do this," Karen McCuean said. "My husband goes in around 8 a.m. or 8:30 a.m. and volunteers come in around 9 a.m. to do prep work. We have volunteers who come in and serve from 2-5 p.m. and we have people come in for clean-up. We're done and out of there by 6 p.m."

"We enjoy it. Thanksgiving years ago was

never really my favorite holiday, but now that my husband and I do this it is our favorite holiday. It's so nice to help out other people."

Karen initially cooked and cleaned for an elderly couple, bringing them special dinners at the holidays. Her husband suggested they expand their efforts and cook a holiday meal for the community. They knew of other elderly couples, people who couldn't cook for themselves and those who were home alone without any family.

They enlisted the help of other parishioners and served about 50 guests that first year. Participation has since ranged between 150-250 guests. Any leftovers are passed along to another church feeding program.

"The guests all have different situations," Karen said. "One group came in - there were 10 of them - that had a death in the family and were going to a funeral home and couldn't cook Thanksgiving dinner. So they stopped in."

"They all have different situations. They're not always people who are alone or are handicapped or are financially strapped. Some people have a sudden crisis. I never know how many people I'll have from year to year."

She hopes fears over the Swine Flu doesn't discourage people from attending the dinner this year. She'll have hand sanitizers placed throughout the dining area and volunteers will be stationed at each food dish. They'll serve the guests, cutting down on the number of people who handle utensils.

Thanksgiving dinner will be served from 2-5 p.m. on Nov. 26 at the church family center, located at Six Mile and Beech Daly. To make a reservation, call (313) 534-9000 on or before Monday, Nov. 23.

Church distributes turkeys

Living Word Church of Plymouth will give away 500 turkeys to needy families Sunday, Nov. 22.

Those interested in reserving a turkey can call the church and leave a message at (734) 207-WORD (9673) or e-mailing them at thanksgiving@livingword-community.net.

They should include their name and phone number in the voice mail message.

The turkeys will be distributed after a special Service of Hope at 10:45 a.m. The service is open to all.

Turkeys will be distributed from 12:30-3 p.m.

11/19/09

Passages

Obituaries, Memorials & Remembrances

1-800-579-7355 • fax 313-496-4968
email: oeobits@hometownlife.com
View Passages Online: www.hometownlife.com

DORIS HAMMOND FEDUS
Age 98 of Petoskey, MI and formerly of Livonia, died November 13, 2009 at the home. A memorial celebration will be held on Friday November 20th from 1-4pm at the Stafford's Bay View Inn in Petoskey with a service being held at 2:30pm. Arrangements are in the care of the Stone Funeral Home of Petoskey.

Paying Tribute to the Life of Your Loved One

OBITUARY POLICY

The first five "billed" lines of an obituary are published at no cost. All additional lines will be charged at \$4 per line. You may place a picture of your loved one for an additional cost of only \$6. Symbolic emblems may be included at no cost (example: American Flags, religious symbols, etc.)

Deadlines:
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In Loving Memory ...at the Holidays

Remember the loved ones you've lost by placing a special holiday remembrance tribute.

The Observer and Eccentric/Hometown Weekly newspapers will be publishing a special "In Remembrance" page for the holidays. Here's the perfect opportunity to honor the memory and celebrate the life of loved ones who hold a special place in your heart.

Prices start at **\$15.00**

for a photo "In Remembrance" ad

Publication: Sunday, Dec. 20th

...in the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

Thursday, Dec. 24th

...in the Hometown Weekly Newspapers

Deadline for both issues...Monday, Dec. 14th

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RELIGION CALENDAR

Religion calendar items appear on Thursdays on a space available basis. To submit an item, e-mail sdargay@hometownlife.com or write: Religion Calendar, Observer Newspapers, 615 W. Lafayette-2nd Level, Detroit, MI 48226. Attn: Sharon Dargay. Item must include the venue address and phone number and any admission costs for events. Items must be submitted at least a week in advance of publication. For a complete listing online, go to hometownlife.com.

NOV. 19-25

Advent reflection

St. Michael the Archangel Parish will host a "Journey to Bethlehem," an afternoon of Advent reflections led by the Rev. Alex Kratz, O.F.M., of the Archdiocese of Detroit's Mobile Evangelization Team, 1:30 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 22, in the school gymnasium, 11441 Hubbard, south of Plymouth Road, between Farmington Road and Merriman in Livonia. This event offers an opportunity to prepare for the coming of the Christ child through Fr. Kratz's insights into the people, culture, and city of Jesus' birth. Fr. Kratz, a Franciscan priest, has served as a pilgrimage leader to the Holy Land for a number of years for TerraSanctaPilgrimages and knows the area and its people intimately. The event is free of charge and open to the public. (734) 261-1455

Chili cook-off

11a.m.-2 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 21, at St. John Lutheran Church, 23225 Gill, Farmington Hills. This is a fund-raiser to support the church's "Rebuilding Together Oakland County" effort, assist church youth in attending their statewide retreat and defray material costs for Lutheran World Relief

Quilts. Participants may choose from a variety of chili dishes, take home items from the bake sale and bid on items in the silent auction. The silent auction will run though 12:30 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 22. \$5.00 per adult, \$1.50 age 10 and under. Price includes chili, salad and beverage. (248) 474-0584

Christmas ornament

The Limited Edition Our Lady of Good Counsel Christmas ornament is now on sale. This ornament was specially crafted in Poland and is hand painted with a mosaic portrait of the O.L.G.C. Mother and Child. This keepsake ornament is available for \$35 after Masses at O.L.G.C. All proceeds benefit Our Lady of Good Counsel. For more details or to arrange delivery, call Mark Coulter at (734) 453-5423 or Mary Vangieson at (734) 737-9442.

Concert

2 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 22, at Monastery of the Sacred Heart, 29575 Middlebelt, north of 13 Mile, in Farmington Hills. Hear sacred music featuring Lisa Agazzi, soprano, performing such favorites as "Pie Jesu," "The Lord's prayer," and "Ave Maria." Selections from Handel, Mozart, Beethoven, Bach and Coundou will be on the program. A free will offering will be accepted. For more information call Barb Glinski at (248) 553-0999 or e-mail to lglinski@aol.com.

Dinner and auction

6 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 21, at Solid Rock Bible Church, 670 Church Street, Plymouth. Silent Auction and Charity Dinner includes live, silent and raffle auctions with proceeds going to the Zambia Mission Trip for the church. Suggested \$10 donation for the dinner. Questions? E-mail to pamseymour@ameritech.net or call (734) 455-7711.

Food drive

Thursday, Nov. 19 is the last day to reserve a pick-up time for Kenwood Church of Christ's Thanksgiving food distribution. Interested parties should call the church at (248) 476-8222 from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., to set up a reservation and time to pick up food on Nov. 21. The church is located at 20200 Merriman, Livonia.

NOV. 26-DEC. 2

Advent service

Lola Park Evangelical Lutheran Church, 14750 Kinloch, Redford, will hold midweek Advent services at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 2, 9 and 16. Each service is 45 minutes long and is intended to help people prepare for Christ's coming. For more information, call (313) 532-8655.

Clothing closet

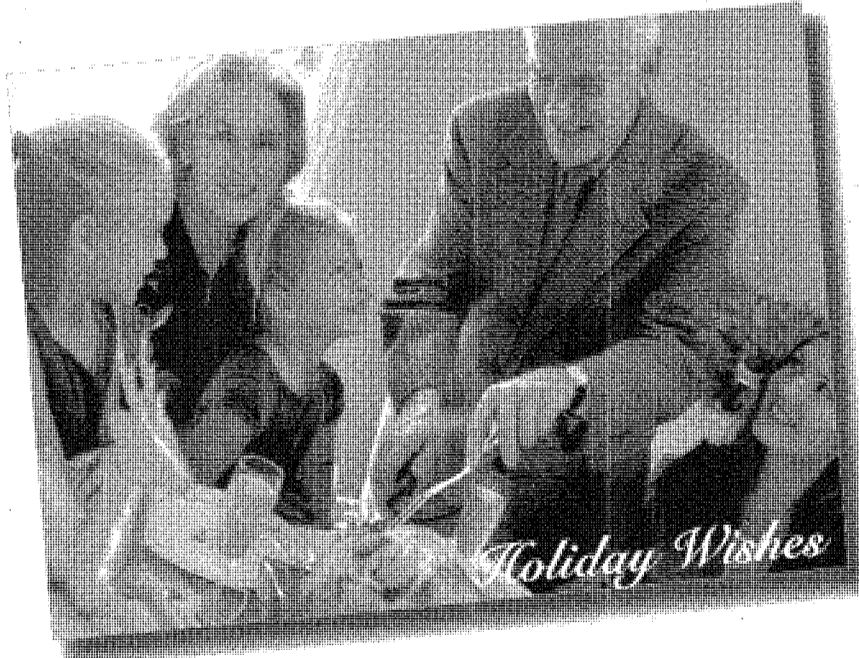
Canton Christian Fellowship Clothing Bank will be open to people in need 10 a.m.-noon, Saturday, Nov. 28, 5-6:30 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 9, and noon-2 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 19, at 41920 Joy Road, between Lilley and Haggerty. Donations of winter coats, gloves, boots accepted. (734) 404-2480

Lessons and Carols

Candlelight service, 7 p.m., Nov. 29, at Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile, Northville. Join the chance choir, ensembles, instrumentalists for this time of calm reflection, of hearing and singing the carols of Advent. Childcare provided through age 4. For more information call Lillian Moblely at (248) 374-5928.

Please see **CALENDAR, B7**

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE B6

Thanksgiving Day service

10 a.m., Nov. 26 at Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile, Northville.

This service will be a wonderful celebration of heritage of freedom. Dr. Jerry Smith, former Director of Music at Ward Church, will conduct the Chancel Choir and Orchestra, Teen Choir and guest musicians in "Battle Hymn of the Republic. Invite your family and friends to launch the holiday season in prayerful thanksgiving and song. Child care provided through age 4. For more information call Lillian Mobley at (248) 374-5928.

Lola Park Evangelical Lutheran Church, 14750 Kinloch, Redford, will have a special service of Thanksgiving at 10 a.m., Nov. 26. The sermon theme will be: "It is the bread the Lord has given you to eat." For more information, call (313) 532-8655.

DEC. 3-9

Advent service

Lola Park Evangelical Lutheran Church, 14750 Kinloch, Redford, will hold midweek Advent services at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 9 and 16. Each service is 45 minutes long and is intended to help people prepare for Christ's coming. For more information, call (313) 532-8655.

Breakfast

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 39020 Five Mile, Livonia, presents Breakfast with Angels, 9:30 a.m., Saturday, Dec. 5. The special event for families with children age 3-7, will include breakfast, crafts, singing and a special visit from the angels. Contact the church office at (734) 464-0211 for more information.

Concert

Christmas concert featuring the Classical Bells handbell ensemble and the Livonia Civic Chorus, 7 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 6 at St. Matthew's United Methodist Church, 30900 Six Mile, between Merriman and Middlebelt, Livonia. A reception will follow. Tickets \$12 each in advance; \$14 each at the door; \$10 each for groups of 10 or more. Go to SeatYourself.biz/stmatthewsilivonia or call (734) 422-6038 to purchase tickets or for more information.

First Presbyterian Church of Farmington presents the acclaimed men's choral society Measure for Measure in a special joint concert with the Wayne State University Concert Chorale at 8 p.m., Friday, Dec. 4, at the church, 26165 Farmington Road, at 11 Mile. There is no admission fee for this event, which is open to the general public, but donations of \$10 per person or \$25 per family are suggested. (248) 474-6170, extension 208

Drop and shop

6-8 p.m., Dec. 8 and 15 at Nativity United Church of Christ, 9435 Henry Ruff, Livonia. Mothers and Grandmothers will take care of children while their parents are out doing last minute errands for Christmas. No charge for the service.



Measure for Measure will sing at First Presbyterian Church of Farmington at 8 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 4.

For more information call (734) 421-5406.

Gift shop

Congregation B'nai Moshe Sisterhood of West Bloomfield presents a Holiday Gift Bazaar 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 6. Discover gifts for all ages, including items such as handbags, clothing, toys, jewelry, works of art, Judaica and more. Congregation B'nai Moshe is located at 6800 Drake, between Maple and 14 Mile Roads in West Bloomfield. For more information about the Gift Bazaar, call Linda Mondrow at (248) 682-0471 or e-mail to lmondrow@aol.com

Special needs event

Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Livonia invites adults with developmental disabilities and their caretakers to attend a Christmas "Sing & Ring" event 6:30 p.m., Friday, Dec. 4, at the church, 34567 Seven Mile, between Farmington and Newburgh, Livonia. Participants will sing carols, ring bells, hear the Christmas story, and enjoy dessert and beverages. RSVP to Judy Cook at (248) 442-8822 or e-mail to judy@emmanuel-livonia.org no later than Friday, Nov. 27. If local schools are closed because of heavy snow or inclement weather, the event will be cancelled.

Swedish Christmas Shop

5-8 p.m. Friday Dec. 4 and 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Sat. Dec. 5 at Faith Covenant Church, 35415 W. 14 Mile, corner of Drake, in Farmington Hills. Swedish Christmas ornaments and decorations, along with homemade cardamom bread and crafts from Thailand and South Africa.

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For Information regarding this Directory, please call Donna Hart at 248-437-2011, Ext. 247 or e-mail: dhart@dnp.com

FILTER

'American Idol' runner-up joins orchestra for Christmas favorites

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Dave Siefkes can't wait for the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra's concert featuring special guest David Archuleta at Hill Auditorium. Not only is the *American Idol* runner-up singing music from his latest recording, but for the first time performs *Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas* to arrangements for orchestra.

Archuleta is currently on tour with his *Christmas from the Heart* CD released in mid-October. In addition to selections such as *Joy to the World* and *Silent Night* and *Ave Maria*, Archuleta sings his original *Melodies of Christmas*. The orchestra rounds out the program with selections from the *Nutcracker Suite* as well as *Sleigh Ride*.

"This is the first concert he's ever done with symphony orchestra," said Siefkes, orchestra marketing director and a former Livonia resident. "This is the premiere of these arrangements even for his biggest hit *Crush* (the first single from his debut album) and a couple we're keeping as a surprise. He has such a great voice. We'll have our 76 piece orchestra on the stage with him, all special for this concert."

Archuleta in 2007 received more than 97 million votes in the *American Idol* competition that became a close run against David Cook who eventually won. Since then Archuleta has thrilled crowds in tours across the U.S. and United Kingdom. His Nov. 27 appearance is a way for the orchestra to draw



American Idol David Archuleta will perform with the Ann Arbor Symphony.

young people to concerts. As part of their educational outreach Ann Arbor Symphony members regularly present programs that introduce students to classical music at schools in Farmington Hills, Livonia, Northville, Novi, West Bloomfield, Canton, and Plymouth.

YOUNG PERFORMER

Archuleta appeals to the very young as well as those

young-at-heart. He was only 10 years old when he won the Utah Talent Competition's division for children and then two years later became the Junior Vocal Champion on *Star Search 2*. When he auditioned for *American Idol* Archuleta was the youngest singer ever to compete at just 16 years old. His Honduran-born mother exposed Archuleta early to the Latin music. She and her sisters sang at events while his

father played recordings of a variety of music styles including the jazz he performed.

"We're trying to do something to extend our reach a little," said Siefkes. "The folks at Radio Disney helped us put this together. We're happy to have this collaboration and plan to do something together again in the future. The fun part of the concert is we'll have extra instruments like a harp and celesta, a percussion instrument that's

very beautiful. And it's at Hill Auditorium that has three levels and not a bad seat in the house."

David Archuleta joins the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra in concert 8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 27, at Hill Auditorium, 825 North University Avenue, Ann Arbor. Tickets range from \$19 to \$72 plus extra service charges of \$4 to \$14 per seat. Call (734) 994-4801 or go online to www.a2so.com.



Isabel Bayrakdarian sings Dec. 4 at the Dearborn Ford Center for the Performing Arts.

Internationally known soprano to perform church benefit

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Anyone who enjoys opera and classical music won't want to miss the Dec. 4 concert by Isabel Bayrakdarian at the Ford Community & Performing Arts Center in Dearborn. The soprano recently returned from Florence where she ended her European tour.

Bayrakdarian is an award-winning singer having won first prize in the 2000 Operalia competition founded by Placido Domingo, the legendary tenor. Since then she's taken home four Juno awards. She won the Metropolitan Opera National Council Award in 1997, Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Medal in 2005, Virginia Parker Prize from the Canada Council for the Arts, and the Leonie Rysanek Award from the George London Foundation.

Bayrakdarian has several recordings to her credit including the Grammy Award winning soundtrack for the film *The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers*. Born in Lebanon, Bayrakdarian is of Armenian heritage, so when approached by the board at St. Sarkis Armenian Apostolic Church in Dearborn she immediately said yes to helping them raise funds for the church. Bayrakdarian's first experience as a vocalist was at church. Now a citizen of Canada, Bayrakdarian says the church and her family remain the focus of her life.

"I encourage everyone who loves fine classical music to come to the concert," said Michael Hagopian, chairman of the church's board of trustees and a Northville resident.

"One of the parishioners is related to Isabel and asked me if the church would be interested. We immediately jumped at the opportunity."

Robert Kachadourian is only too happy to be part of the committee planning the performance for the last six months.

"I think this is a wonderful opportunity for people of the area to hear someone from the New York Met," said Kachadourian. "There are not too many people of her caliber coming around. It's kind of a coup in a way."

Soprano Isabel Bayrakdarian performs 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 4, at the Ford Community & Performing Arts Center, 15801 Michigan Ave., Dearborn. For tickets, call (313) 943-2354 or online at www.dearborn-fordcenter.com.

Tickets are reserved and priced at \$25, \$40 and \$50.

"We've made it as reasonable as we possibly can," said Hagopian. "It is hard economic times in Michigan. We want to expose as many people as we can to her talent and the music she will be performing."

Unique glasses help vision impaired see better

Low vision doctors Sheldon Smith and Donald Haiderer prescribe spectacle aids for the visually impaired.

Vision loss is devastating, stealing independence and quality of life. The good news is many determined people have begun to fight back.

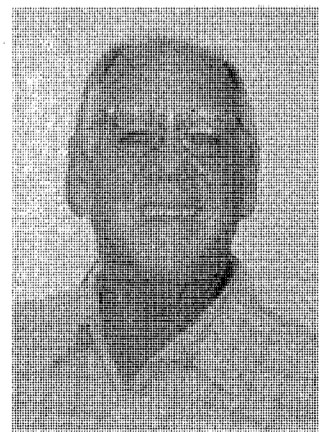
Desmond Roberts lost his license to drive. He saw Dr. Sheldon Smith of Low Vision of Michigan desperate to maintain independent driving. With telescopic driving glasses prescribed by Dr. Smith his license was reinstated.

"My life ended at my front door, but this gave my life back," said Roberts. "You saved my life."

David Welch sought to read without hand magnifiers and drive with confidence. The doctor prescribed one pair for driving and another for

reading. "No other specialists helped me like Dr. Smith," said Welch, moved to tears by seeing better.

"Today we make glasses that noticeably improve sight," said Dr. Smith. "They can be taken anywhere, unlike electronic table-top magnifiers. And unlike magnifiers, spectacles are hands free."



David Welch with driving glasses

"We prescribe surgical quality telescopes for sight loss," said Dr. Don Haiderer of Low Vision of Michigan. "They are custom focused for simplicity

of use so your eyes see the best they can. Details look bigger, closer and easier to make out."

Urgency is critical to success. Prompt treatment gives better outcomes. There is no advantage in waiting to get worse. Whether reading or driving, the best time to start is early, with milder devices. If necessary, using stronger devices comes easier after mastering mild ones.

We help people with mild, moderate and severe vision loss. Every situation is unique. Special reading glasses start at \$600 and custom telescopes start from \$1800.

Patients and referring physicians are welcome to review their situation or schedule an appointment. We can help. Call Low Vision of Michigan to find out how.

TOLL FREE:
877-677-2020

Low Vision of Michigan

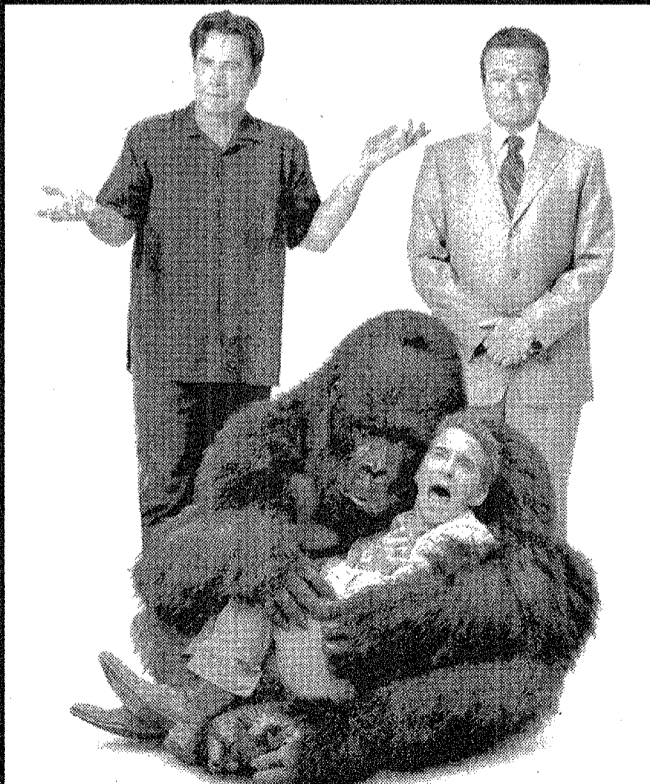
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KNOW THE SCORE
check out the numbers in

today's **Sports** section

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Pete Hammond, BOXOFFICE MAGAZINE



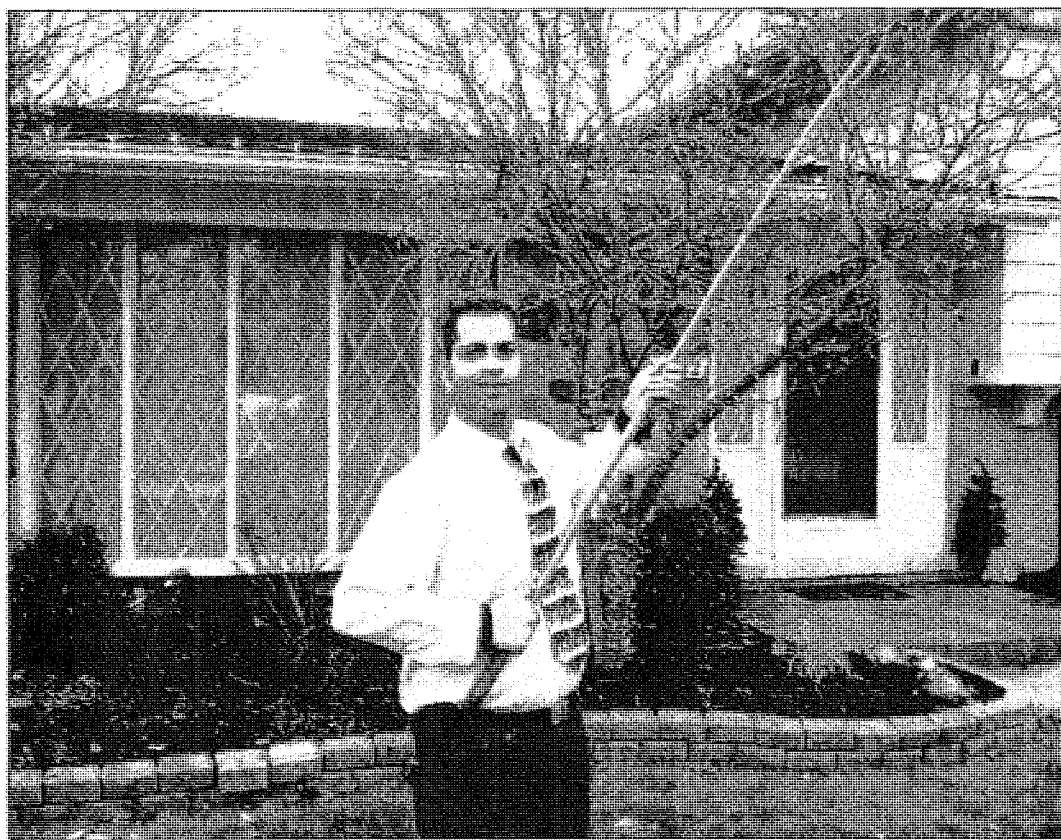
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Westland-Garden City Strictly Business

IT'S YOUR BUSINESS Q&A



Martin Zoro, who always decorated his family's home for the holidays, started Zoro's Christmas Lights in 2004.

Zoro's decorates home, business for the holidays

Zoro's Christmas Lights of Livonia has been in business since 2004, decorating homes and businesses for the holidays. The company of eight employees has decorations of all sorts for all holidays, but it specializes in Christmas lights and decor. Chief executive officer Martin Zoro answered the following questions about the business:

Observer: Tell us about your business, including the types of services and/or products you feature.

My business is about decorations — decorations for any holiday, parties and events. Service includes renting lights to buying lights or just needing labor help. Products include LED lights.

Observer: What makes your business unique?

My business is different because we offer a five-year guarantee on your Christmas lights. Also, we offer free removal and free storage.

Observer: How did you first decide to open your own business?

Well, I always did



Customers can rent or buy lights from Zoro's, or, if they already own lights, they can hire Zoro's just for the labor.

Christmas lights for my family. One day it hit me to open the business and try to succeed. Now, I am going on five years.

Observer: How did you decide to locate in Livonia?

Well, I work out of my house to cut costs. And it's more efficient when you have your own office at home.

Observer: Do you have a funny tidbit or story to share with our readers about your experience so far as a small business owner?

Well, one of my customers wanted Christmas lights put on her house on Dec. 22. She had just found out her mother-in-law was coming. She did not want to hear her nag because she didn't do Christmas lights for her kids.

Zoro's Christmas Lights is open 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. seven days a week. For more information, call (248) 408-6393 or visit www.zoroschristmaslights.com.

BUSINESS NEWSMAKERS

New tenant

Centro Properties Group announced a 24,920-square foot lease has been executed with Planet Fitness at Westland Crossing, located on the northwest corner of Warren and Wayne Roads in Westland.

Centro Properties Group is the owner of Westland Crossing. Centro Properties Group is the second largest owner of community and neighborhood shopping centers in the United States

Top workplace

DFCU Financial, Michigan's largest credit union, was recently named to the Detroit Free Press "Top Workplaces" list for the second consecutive year. In addition, for the sixth consecutive year, the credit union has been named one of Metropolitan Detroit's 101 Best and Brightest Companies to Work For.

According to Mark Shobe, president and CEO of DFCU Financial, "It has been the most challenging year for our local economy that any of us has ever experienced and yet we remain one of the highest performing credit unions in the nation. Our preferred employer status and consistent strong performance are a direct result of our employees' col-

lective teamwork and commitment to excellence."

The 101 Best and Brightest Companies to Work For Award, sponsored by the Michigan Business and Professional Association (MBPA), recognizes best practices in companies today and is awarded based upon employee input.

Like the 101 Best and Brightest, the "Top Workplaces" list identifies the leading workplaces in the Detroit area based upon the opinions of employees. DFCU Financial employees were e-mailed a survey and the results of which were compared across hundreds of nominated organizations.

DFCU Financial, headquartered in Dearborn, is Michigan's largest credit union with \$2.5 billion in assets. DFCU Financial currently operates 12 full-service branches in the metro area, including an office on Merriman at Warren Road in Garden City. For more information, go online to www.dfcufinancial.com.

Leadership training

Meredith R. Phillips, chief privacy officer at Henry Ford Health System, was selected to participate in Leadership Detroit Class XXXI, a year-long community leadership program

to enhance leadership skills and gain insight and knowledge of regional issues among senior-level executives in southeast Michigan.

Phillips, a Westland resident, is one of 63 local leaders selected to participate in the program for this year's 31st class of Leadership Detroit.

Participants represent a cross-section of the community, including business, organized labor, government, education, media, civic groups, health services and community organizations.

"Meredith is a leader in our organization," said J. Douglas Clark, chief compliance officer of Henry Ford Health System. "The experience she will gain through participation in Leadership Detroit will encourage her to inspire others from our organization to become involved in Detroit's community to affect change in our region."

Leadership Detroit works to connect leaders from metro Detroit to raise awareness of key issues that affect the Detroit region and inspire change. More than 1,800 program alumni are working in leadership positions in the region, throughout Michigan and across the country.

BUSINESS MILESTONES

SPECIAL EVENTS

Good Neighbor Day

Time/date: 1-4 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 22

Location: Kroger locations around southeast Michigan

Details: Forgotten Harvest volunteers will be on-site collecting both food and cash donations. Volunteers will provide participating shoppers with a list of perishable food items needed for donation. Cash donations will support the operations of Forgotten Harvest to rescue fresh, nutritious food from a variety of sources to be delivered to its food providers, same-day, free-of-charge.

Give a Gobble

Time/date: Thursday, Nov. 18

Location: Curves, 8323 N. Wayne Road, north of Warren Road, Westland

Details: Westland Curves is collecting items for Thanksgiving dinners for the needy. Curves will waive the initial service fee for any new member who brings in either a turkey or a \$30 contribution. Current members can add 30 days free to their membership by bringing in 10 pounds of non-parishable Thanksgiving dinner food items. All to be donated to local churches and food pantries. The festivities will include turkey calling (no, not for your husbands), recipe exchanges and pin the feathers on the turkey, all for great gifts.

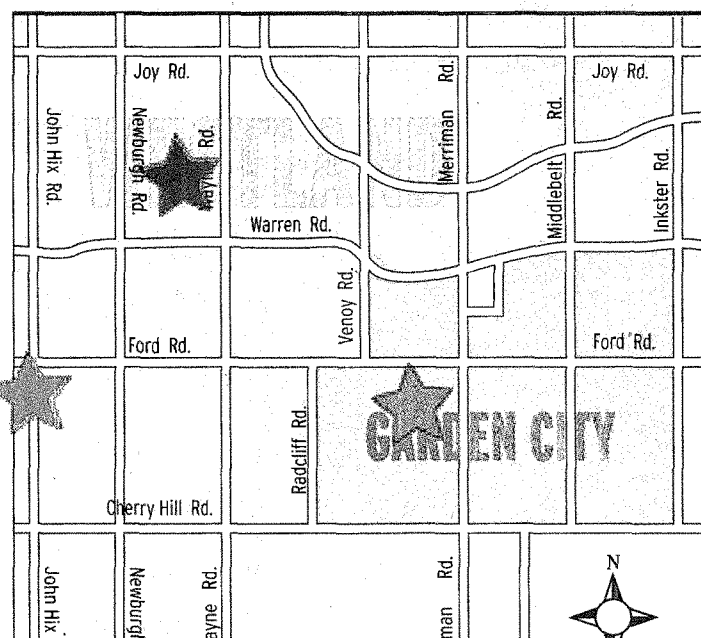
Contact: (734) 458-5004

Health screening

Time/date: 9 a.m. Monday, Nov. 30

Location: Merriman Road Baptist Church, 2055 Merriman, Garden City

Details: The church is hosting a Life Line Screening. Screenings identify potential cardiovascular conditions such



as blocked arteries and irregular heart rhythm, abdominal aortic aneurysms, and hardening of the arteries in the legs, which is a strong predictor of heart disease. A bone density screening to assess osteoporosis risk is also offered and is appropriate for both men and women. Packages start at \$139. All five screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete.

Contact: Call 1-877-237-1287 for an appointment or visit the Web site at www.lifelinescreening.com Pre-registration is required.

Toy/Food Drive

Time/Date: 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday-Friday

Location: National Storage Center, 39205 Ford,

Details: National Storage Center is doing its part for the community this year by collecting donations of non-perishable food and new unwrapped toys.

Contact: (734) 981-0700

Thanksgiving buffet

Time/date: Thursday, Nov. 26

Location: Marvaso's Italian Grille, 6569 N. Wayne Road, north of Hunter, Westland

Details: Marvaso's will be serving an all-you-can-eat Thanksgiving buffet, featuring such entrees as turkey, smoked ham, whitefish scallopini and cherry chicken farfalle, with side dishes like stuffing, garlic mashed potatoes, fresh garden salad, cranberry sauce apple/cherry cobbler, chocolate mousse cheese cake and pumpkin pie. The price is \$18.99 for adults and \$9.99 for children age 4-11. Children under age 4 eat free.

Contact: (734) 405-5222

Holiday Taste Fest

Time/date: 6-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 1

Location: Hellenic Cultural Center, 36375 Joy Road, east of Newburgh, Westland

Details: It's an indoor version of the popular summer Restaurant Rally. Sample foods from a selection of Westland restaurants for just \$25 per person.

Contact: (734) 326-7222

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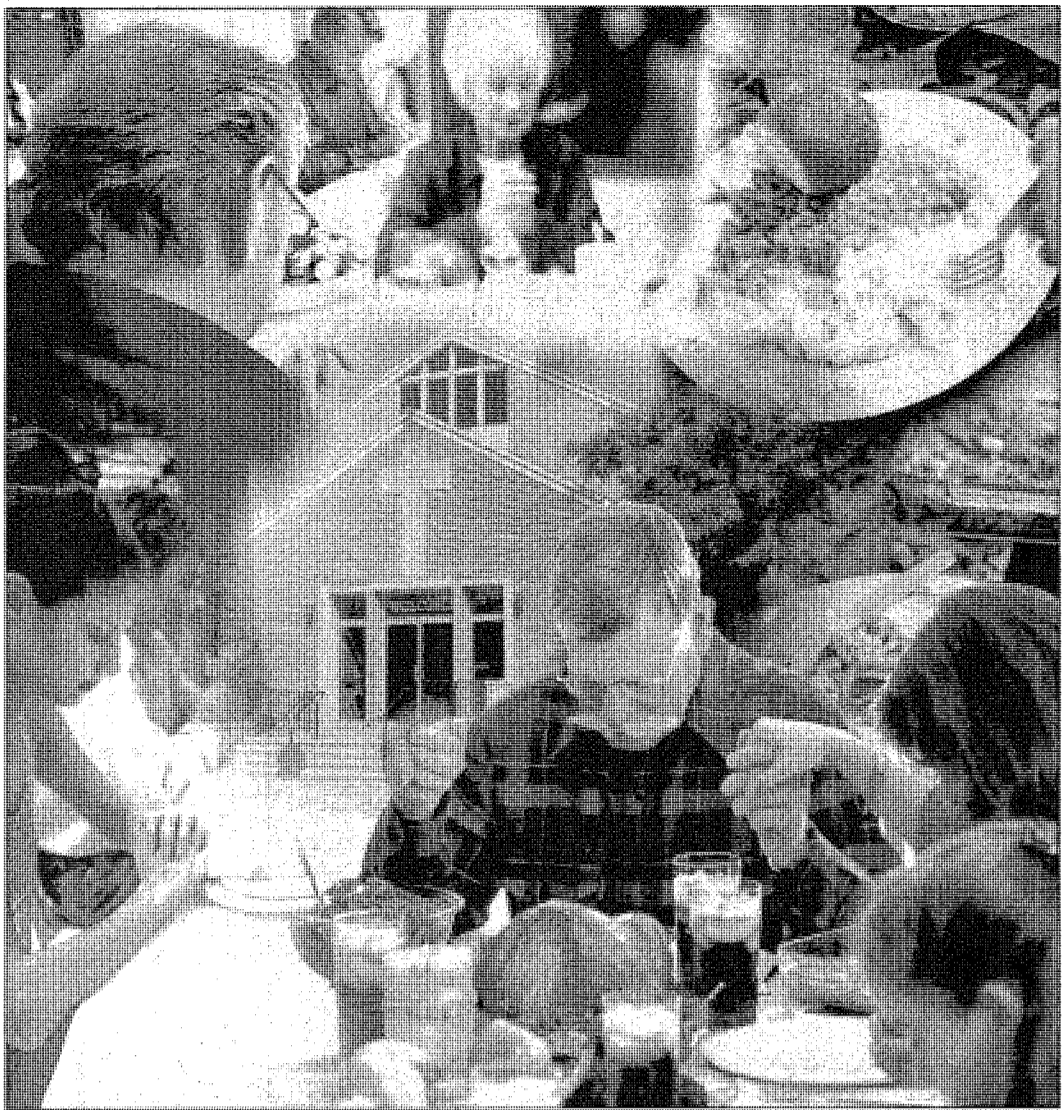
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Redford couple, church cook Thanksgiving dinner for all

BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER

Karen and Don McCuean will start Thanksgiving Day this year like they always do – cooking up enough turkey and trimmings for 400 people.

“We do real turkeys – nothing processed – turkey and gravy, mashed potato – that’s real, not boxed,” said Karen McCuean. “The sweet potato is fresh. There’s stuffing with sausage. We do creamed corn, mushroom soup in. I do a gourmet coleslaw with cranberry and celery and apple. It’s like a Waldorf with homemade poppy seed dressing and there’s a pistachio salad.”

“Then there are relishes and rolls and butter. We have assorted pies and they come from St. Colette (in Livonia). They have a piefest the day before Thanksgiving and everyone brings a pie to share and a pie to donate to charity. They donate all their pies to our Thanksgiving dinner.”

The Redford couple puts on a feast and invites anyone who wants to share the holiday. Volunteers from their church, Our Lady of Loretto in Redford, and donations from generous supporters have helped continue the tradition, which marks nine years next week.

“If it wasn’t for them we couldn’t do this,” Karen McCuean said. “My husband goes in around 8 a.m. or 8:30 a.m. and volunteers come in around 9 a.m. to do prep work. We have volunteers who come in and serve from 2-5 p.m. and we have people come in for clean-up. We’re done and out of there by 6 p.m.”

“We enjoy it. Thanksgiving years ago was

never really my favorite holiday, but now that my husband and I do this it is our favorite holiday. It’s so nice to help out other people.”

Karen initially cooked and cleaned for an elderly couple, bringing them special dinners at the holidays. Her husband suggested they expand their efforts and cook a holiday meal for the community. They knew of other elderly couples, people who couldn’t cook for themselves and those who were home alone without any family.

They enlisted the help of other parishioners and served about 50 guests that first year. Participation has since ranged between 150-250 guests. Any leftovers are passed along to another church feeding program.

“The guests all have different situations,” Karen said. “One group came in – there were 10 of them – that had a death in the family and were going to a funeral home and couldn’t cook Thanksgiving dinner. So they stopped in.”

“They all have different situations. They’re not always people who are alone or are handicapped or are financially strapped. Some people have a sudden crisis. I never know how many people I’ll have from year to year.”

She hopes fears over the Swine Flu doesn’t discourage people from attending the dinner this year. She’ll have hand sanitizers placed throughout the dining area and volunteers will be stationed at each food dish. They’ll serve the guests, cutting down on the number of people who handle utensils.

Thanksgiving dinner will be served from 2-5 p.m. on Nov. 26 at the church family center, located at Six Mile and Beech Daly. To make a reservation, call (313) 534-9000 on or before Monday, Nov. 23.

Church distributes turkeys

Living Word Church of Plymouth will give away 500 turkeys to needy families Sunday, Nov. 22.

Those interested in reserving a turkey can call the church and leave a message at (734) 207-WORD (9673) or e-mailing them at thanksgiving@livingword-community.net.

They should include their name and phone number in the voice mail message.

The turkeys will be distributed after a special Service of Hope at 10:45 a.m. The service is open to all.

Turkeys will be distributed from 12:30-3 p.m.

11/19/09

Passages

Obituaries, Memorials & Remembrances

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DORIS HAMMOND FEDUS

Age 98 of Petoskey, MI and formerly of Livonia, died November 13, 2009 at the home. A memorial celebration will be held on Friday November 20th from 1-4pm at the Stafford's Bay View Inn in Petoskey with a service being held at 2:30pm. Arrangements are in the care of the Stone Funeral Home of Petoskey.

Paying Tribute to the Life of Your Loved One

OBITUARY POLICY

The first five "billed" lines of an obituary are published at no cost. All additional lines will be charged at \$4 per line. You may place a picture of your loved one for an additional cost of only \$6. Symbolic emblems may be included at no cost (example: American Flags, religious symbols, etc.).

Deadlines:
Friday 4:15 PM for Sunday
Wednesday 9:45 AM for Thursday

Obituaries received after these deadlines will be placed in the next available issue.

e-mail your obit to oeobits@hometownlife.com or fax to:
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For more information call:
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ask for Char or Liz

In Loving Memory ...at the Holidays

Remember the loved ones you've lost by placing a special holiday remembrance tribute.

The Observer and Eccentric/Hometown Weekly newspapers will be publishing a special "In Remembrance" page for the holidays. Here's the perfect opportunity to honor the memory and celebrate the life of loved ones who hold a special place in your heart.

Prices start at **\$15.00**

for a photo "In Remembrance" ad

Publication: Sunday, Dec. 20th
...in the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers
Thursday, Dec. 24th
...in the Hometown Weekly Newspapers

Deadline for both issues...Monday, Dec. 14th

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RELIGION CALENDAR

Religion calendar items appear on Thursdays on a space available basis. To submit an item, e-mail sdargay@hometownlife.com or write: Religion Calendar, Observer Newspapers, 615 W. Lafayette-2nd Level, Detroit, MI 48226, Attn: Sharon Dargay. Item must include the venue address and phone number and any admission costs for events. Items must be submitted at least a week in advance of publication. For a complete listing online, go to hometownlife.com.

NOV. 19-25

Advent reflection
St. Michael the Archangel Parish will host a "Journey to Bethlehem," an afternoon of Advent reflections led by the Rev. Alex Kratz, O.F.M., of the Archdiocese of Detroit's Mobile Evangelization Team, 1:30 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 22, in the school gymnasium, 11441 Hubbard, south of Plymouth Road, between Farmington Road and Merriman in Livonia. This event offers an opportunity to prepare for the coming of the Christ child through Fr. Kratz's insights into the people, culture, and city of Jesus' birth. Fr. Kratz, a Franciscan priest, has served as a pilgrimage leader to the Holy Land for a number of years for TerraSanctaPilgrimages and knows the area and its people intimately. The event is free of charge and open to the public. (734) 261-1455

Chili cook-off
11a.m.-2 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 21, at St. John Lutheran Church, 23225 Gill, Farmington Hills. This is a fund-raiser to support the church's "Rebuilding Together Oakland County" effort, assist church youth in attending their statewide retreat and defray material costs for Lutheran World Relief

Quilts. Participants may choose from a variety of chili dishes, take home items from the bake sale and bid on items in the silent auction. The silent auction will run through 12:30 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 22. \$5.00 per adult, \$1.50 age 10 and under. Price includes chili, salad and beverage. (248) 474-0584

Christmas ornament
The Limited Edition Our Lady of Good Counsel Christmas ornament is now on sale. This ornament was specially crafted in Poland and is hand painted with a mosaic portrait of the O.L.G.C. Mother and Child. This keepsake ornament is available for \$35 after Masses at O.L.G.C. All proceeds benefit Our Lady of Good Counsel. For more details or to arrange delivery, call Mark Coulter at (734) 453-5423 or Mary Vangieson at (734) 737-9442.

Concert
2 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 22, at Monastery of the Sacred Heart, 29575 Middlebelt, north of 13 Mile, in Farmington Hills. Hear sacred music featuring Lisa Agazzi, soprano, performing such favorites as "Pie Jesu," "The Lord's prayer," and "Ave Maria." Selections from Handel, Mozart, Beethoven, Bach and Gounod will be on the program. A free will offering will be accepted. For more information call Barb Glinski at (248) 553-0999 or e-mail to lgilinski@aol.com.

Dinner and auction
6 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 21, at Solid Rock Bible Church, 670 Church Street, Plymouth. Silent Auction and Charity Dinner includes live, silent and raffle auctions with proceeds going to the Zambia Mission Trip for the church. Suggested \$10 donation for the dinner. Questions? E-mail to pamseymour@ameritech.net or call (734) 455-7711.

Food drive
Thursday, Nov. 19 is the last day to reserve a pick-up time for Kenwood Church of Christ's Thanksgiving food distribution. Interested parties should call the church at (248) 476-8222 from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., to set up a reservation and time to pick up food on Nov. 21. The church is located at 20200 Merriman, Livonia.

NOV. 26-DEC. 2

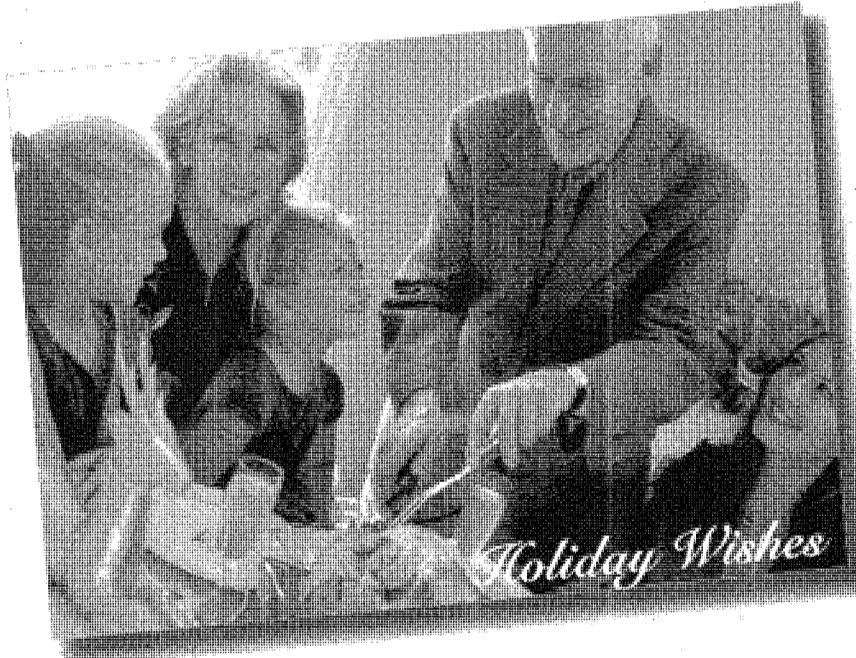
Advent service
Lola Park Evangelical Lutheran Church, 14750 Kinloch, Redford, will hold midweek Advent services at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 2, 9 and 16. Each service is 45 minutes long and is intended to help people prepare for Christ's coming. For more information, call (313) 532-8655.

Clothing closet
Canton Christian Fellowship Clothing Bank will be open to people in need 10 a.m.-noon, Saturday, Nov. 28, 5-6:30 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 9, and noon-2 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 19, at 41920 Joy Road, between Lilley and Haggerty. Donations of winter coats, gloves, boots accepted. (734) 404-2480

Lessons and Carols
Candlelight service, 7 p.m., Nov. 29, at Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile, Northville. Join the chancel choir, ensembles, instrumentalists for this time of calm reflection, of hearing and singing the carols of Advent. Childcare provided through age 4. For more information call Lillian Mobley at (248) 374-5928.

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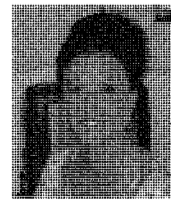
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Well Hello Dolly!



The strong ensemble cast of "Hello Dolly!" dress in elaborate costumes and hats in the Village Players production.



Denise Kowalewski-Tucker of Livonia is the star of "Hello Dolly!" at the Village Players Theatre through Nov. 22.

Village Players and beloved musical are perfect match

BY WENDSY VON BUSKIRK
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Birmingham's Village Players have been staging productions since 1923, but *Hello Dolly!* ranks among the most elaborate in the community theatre group's long history.

"This is one of our most ambitious and spectacular," Associate Producer Bill Haycock said as he introduced the play on opening night, Nov. 6.

The classic musical comedy tells the story of Dolly Levi, a meddling matchmaker who has her sights set on making the ultimate match for herself. Antics ensue as Levi pursues her goal of marrying grumpy half-a-millionaire Horace Vandergelder.

Set in 1896 between Yonkers and New York City, the play opens with the ensemble number *Call on Dolly*, that has the entire cast singing and dancing in bright costume, including bright pink, green and yellow suits for the men, and full skirts and elaborate hats for the women.

The period outfits, gathered from the Troy Theatre Ensemble, the Bonstelle Costume Shop, President Tuxedo in Birmingham and as far as Stratford, Ont., Kansas and St. Louis, Mo., steal the show throughout. There are numerous changes — Dolly even dons a new look for her curtain call — and the costumes are celebrated in the song *Put on Your Sunday Clothes*. The hats, complicated confections of feathers, velvet and bows supplied by Hats by Mark Paul of Royal Oak, also take center stage, especially since part of the play takes place in a hat shop and the song *Ribbons Down My Back* describes a chapeau worn by hat shop owner Irene Molloy, played by Jennifer Carmichael Clark.

The play is delightfully carried by Denise Kowalewski-Tucker

of Livonia in the lead role. With her commanding stage presence, keen comic timing and strong voice, Kowalewski-Tucker holds the audience rapt and keeps them laughing, most notably during the play's climax at the posh Harmonia Gardens restaurant.

EXPERIENCED ACTOR

Kowalewski-Tucker lived in New York City for 11 years, performing off-off-Broadway, in national tours, at regional theatres and in films, including *Hannah and Her Sisters*, *Big*, and *She Devil*. She also appeared in an episode of *The Sopranos*. On stage, she has played leading roles in *Mame*, *Gypsy*, *Chicago*, and other popular musicals.

Her professional background shows.

Other standout performers include Debra Dworkin as the bubbly Minnie Fay, and Matthew Miga as a slapstick Cornelius Hackl.

Hello Dolly! opened on Broadway in 1964 to rave reviews with Carol Channing in the lead role and went on to earn 10 Tony awards including Best Musical.

Village Players member Ron Fredrick, in the audience on opening night, recalled his ties with the hit play. Fredrick, of Birmingham, attended Princeton and as president of the university's Triangle Club hired *Hello Dolly!* writer Michael Stewart to direct the theatre troupe's 1954 production before Stewart became well known.

Fredrick later worked at the Fisher Building when *Hello Dolly!* held tryouts there.

"It was unusual to have a Broadway tryout in Detroit," Fredrick said.

Fredrick said he enjoyed the Village Players version.

"What an ambitious, ambitious production. I think they pulled it off," Fredrick said. "I'm really impressed with the chorus, they're strong. They're really good."

Indeed, the chorus fills the stage with life and color during numbers like *Before the Parade Passes By* and the famous *Hello Dolly*, which has the men dressed as dapper waiters in red waistcoats juggling, leap-frogging, and forming kicklines that inspire rounds of applause. Ryan Quinn commands attention with his obvious ballet training.

The dancing, though self-conscious at times, is pure fun throughout.

The Village Players production of *Hello Dolly!* has been three years in the making, and the cast and crew's hard work is undeniable. It's well worth the \$18 ticket price for more than two-and-a-half hours of entertainment.

Hello Dolly! is based on the play *The Matchmaker* by Thornton Wilder with music and lyrics by Jerry Herman and book by Michael Stewart. The Village Players production is directed by Michael Gravame and produced by Diane D'Agostino, with musical direction by Stan Harr, choreography by Valerie Mould, and assistant direction by Elizabeth Berry and Mark Carley.

It runs through Nov. 22 with performances at 8 p.m. Friday, Saturday and Sunday, and 2 p.m. matinees Saturday and Sunday. Tickets and more information are available online at www.birminghamvillageplayers.com or by phone at (248) 644-2075.

The Village Players Theatre is located at 34660 Woodward Ave. in Birmingham, just south of Maple Road.

Check us out on the Web every day at hometownlife.com

Notice of Public Sale of Personal Property.

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self Service Storage Facility Act, State of Michigan, **PS Orangeco, Inc. and/or Shurgard TRS, Inc.** will conduct sale(s) at Public Storage located at 3650 Enterprise Dr. Allen Park, MI 48101 (313) 441-3117 11/30/2009 at: 12:00pm. Sales are for cash only. Removal within 24 hours. For sale and storage units in which rent and fees are past due.

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| B117 | Shannon Turrill | table, chairs, dresser |
| B128 | Dwain Puryear | boxes, bags, totes |
| B185 | Tabita Latham | boxes, dresser, totes |
| B288 | Barbara Hanson | boxes, totes, tools |
| B310 | Suzanne Barber | boxes |
| B363 | Jillian Miracle | bags, tv, vacuum |
| B369 | LaMarr Holley | bags |
| B387 | Katherine Ballard | dryer, sofa, table |
| C040 | Brenda Switzer | boxes, bags, table |
| F006 | Jennifer Collier | boxes, totes, tv |
| F014 | Sturge Moreland | boxes, bags, bike |
| F047 | Monica Garcia | sofa, table, chairs |

CE08679629 - 2x3

Notice of Public Sale of Personal Property.

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self Service Storage Facility Act, State of Michigan, **PS Orangeco, Inc. and/or Shurgard TRS, Inc.** will conduct sale(s) at Public Storage (formerly Shurgard) located at 9300 Pelham Rd., Taylor, MI 48180 (313) 292-9730 11/30/2009 at: 11:00 am Sales are for cash only. Removal within 24 hours. For sale and storage units in which rent and fees are past due.

Personal property described below in the matter of:

- | | | |
|------|--------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 2051 | Talis Dugas | boxes, totes, sofa |
| 3003 | Sandy Long | boxes, bags, tv |
| 3034 | Courtney Garcia | boxes, bags, dresser |
| 3042 | Erma Austin | boxes, dresser, chair |
| 3068 | Brianne Ibbetson | boxes, sofa, chair |
| 3084 | Derrick Adams | boxes, bags, totes |
| 4051 | Antoine Murry | boxes, totes, speakers |
| 4065 | Dwaine Cooksey | boxes, bike, totes |
| 4082 | Jacqueline Jackson | boxes, bags, sofa |
| 5020 | Calvin Williams | bags, dresser, tv |
| 5023 | Gary Scott Giraud | boxes, totes, toys |
| 5106 | George Bojarski | boxes, totes, bike |
| 6028 | Ebony Boatman | tv, bike, grill |
| 6037 | Tracie Breuer | Honda motorcycle
VIN HM319HM0B4501 |
| 6040 | Lisa Arnold | boxes, dresser, tv |
| 6080 | Donald Daigle | boxes, totes, tv |
| 7032 | Matthew Oates | boxes, totes, tv |
| 7054 | Nicole Blanchard | sofa, table, mattress |
| 7086 | Pamala Tucker | boxes, bags, totes |
| 9056 | Janice Weycker | boxes, totes, monitors |

Publish: November 12 & 19, 2009

CE08679629 - 2x4

Request for Bids Garden City Public Schools

General Construction of: Door Replacements

The Board of Education will receive sealed bids for door replacements in Garden City High School and Cambridge School. Bids will be received until the time and the place, as follows, where and when the opening of bid proposals will be conducted by the Owner in public.

Date: December 1, 2009

Time: 1:30 p.m. Local Time

Place: Board of Education
Garden City Public Schools
1333 Radcliff Street
Garden City, MI 48135

Attn: Scott Johnson, Executive Director
of Business Services

Bidding Documents will be available for examination and distribution on or after November 10, 2009.

Examination may be made at the Office of the Architect, TMP ARCHITECTURE, INC., Architects - Engineers - Planners, 1191 West Square Lake Road, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48302; the MCGRAW - ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan.

Qualified bidders may obtain bidding documents from the Office of the Architect, consisting of one (1) set of Drawings and Specifications.

A sworn and notarized statement disclosing any familial relationship existing between the bidder and any member of the school board, school superintendents, or chief executive must accompany each bid. A board shall not accept a bid that does not include this statement. This statement is on the proposal execution form.

Bid Proposals shall be on forms furnished by the Architect, accompanied by a satisfactory Bid Bond or Certified Check for five percent (5%) of the Base Bid Sum maximum possible proposal amount.

Bidder shall agree not to withdraw Bid Proposal for a period of sixty (60) days after date for receipt of bids. Accepted Bidder shall be required to furnish satisfactory Performance Bond and Labor and Material Payment Bond in accordance with the instructions to Bidders.

This Project is to be bid at the prevailing wage rate.

The right to reject any or all Bid Proposals, either in whole or in part, or to waive any informalities therein is reserved by the Owner.

Patricia Ruhland
Secretary, Board of Education

Publish: November 19, 2009

CE08682090 - 2x6

Notice of Public Sale of Personal Property.

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self Service Storage Facility Act, State of Michigan, **PS Orangeco, Inc. and/or Shurgard TRS, Inc.** will conduct sale(s) at Public Storage located at 20080 Allen Rd. Trenton, MI 48183 (734)479-5442 11/30/2009 at: 10:00 am. Sales are for cash only. Removal within 24 hours. For sale and storage units in which rent and fees are past due. Personal property described below in the matter of:

- | | | |
|-----|---------------------|--|
| 104 | Tom Finnley | 1991 Ford Tempo
VIN 2FAPP36U7NB104843 |
| 105 | Steven Dale Trimble | boxes, totes, tv |
| 642 | Samuel Zavalata Jr | boxes, bags, toys |
| 943 | Larry Cooper | boxes, bags, dresser |

Publish: November 12 & 19, 2009

CE08679629 - 2x2

CITY OF WESTLAND NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

On Thursday, December 3, various items of the City Westland, Special Investigations Unit will be sold at public auction. The auction will be held at Insurance Auto Auction 8251 Rawsonville Road, Belleville, MI, County of Wayne, at 10:30 a.m. The following items will be offered for sale to the highest bidder:

- | Stock | Year | Make | Model | VIN |
|---------|------|-------|---------|-------------------|
| 5976668 | 2000 | Dodge | Ram Van | 2B6HB11Y9YK141512 |

Vehicles are sold in "as is" condition.

The referenced vehicles, as well as many others, may be previewed by prospective buyers on Wednesday, December 2, 2009, from 8:30 am - 4:30 pm. Vehicles may be deleted from this list at any time prior to the start of the auction.

Terms and Conditions will be applicable to any item sold. Registration fees apply.

Publish: November 19, 2009

CE08680441 - 2x2.5

Notice of Public Sale of Personal Property.

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self Service Storage Facility Act, State of Michigan, **PS Orangeco, Inc. and/or Shurgard TRS, Inc.** will conduct sale(s) at Public Storage (formerly Shurgard) located at 24920 Trowbridge St., Dearborn, MI 48124 (313) 277-7940 11/30/2009 at: 1:00pm. Sales are for cash only. Removal within 24 hours. For sale and storage units in which rent and fees are past due.

Personal property described below in the matter of:

- | | | |
|------|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1082 | Psontia Fowler | boxes, bags, totes |
| 1122 | Andrae Finerson | lawn mower, grill, refrigerator |
| 1138 | Yancy Davis | boxes, bags, totes |
| 1164 | Djuana Pearson | boxes, bags, totes |
| 1214 | Dawn Turner | bags, bike, tv |
| 1252 | Gregory Marvin | totes, tv, sofa |
| 1260 | James McClellan | boxes, bags, tv |
| 1298 | Christie Williams | boxes, dresser, tool box |
| 1410 | Donna Camper | boxes, bags, totes |
| 1572 | Julie Ulveling | boxes, totes, dresser |
| 2222 | Silas Crosby | boxes, bags, dresser |
| 2254 | Keli Brown | boxes, bags, dresser |
| 2388 | Sheila Alcini | boxes, bike, dresser |
| 2448 | Wafa Alsoraimi | boxes, totes, vacuum |
| 2490 | Dennis Cohen | table, chairs |

Publish: November 12 & 19, 2009

CE08679627 2x3.5

Enjoy a stress-free, easy and impressive holiday

Whether you've made a number of holiday dinners or not, this coming holiday season is filled with enough challenges for any family. Why not approach the main holiday meal from a more relaxed state of mind? You don't have to be a television food chef to make a dinner that will be memorable — it can be as simple as stuffing your thawed turkey with fresh citrus fruits, brushing on a glaze, and making a few no-stress side dishes to perfectly complement the meal.

You'll want to start with a fresh or frozen thawed turkey, appropriately rinsed and drained. Quarter a fresh orange or two and stuff into the carcass. Stir together about 3 tablespoons fresh orange juice, ¼ cup of vegetable oil, 1 teaspoon garlic salt, 1 teaspoon fresh

or dried herbs of your choice, and a dash of pepper, and brush over the bird. Cover and bake according to package directions.

The citrus flavor permeating your turkey will perfectly blend with Easy Sausage and Cranberry Stuffing, as well as a Fruity Holiday Salad that's ready in less than five minutes and sure to please. Add some baked yams, canned cranberry sauce and fresh bakery rolls or bread for a meal to remember. Your stuffing can bake while the completely roasted turkey rests and is carved.

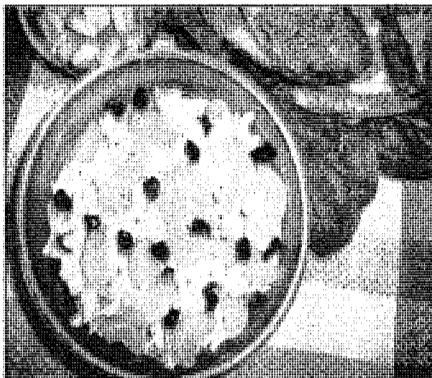
It doesn't take great culinary skills or a lot of effort to create a good holiday dinner. For more recipes and holiday tips, visit www.stuffingrecipes.com.

FRUITY HOLIDAY SALAD

Makes a large bowl, sure to feed a crowd!

- 1 medium head of fresh lettuce, chopped or 1 bag of pre-packaged salad
- 1 large, fresh carrot, shredded (optional if using bagged salad)
- 1 cup fresh, sliced celery
- ½ cup dried cranberries
- 1 cup canned Mandarin Orange slices, drained
- ½ cup purchased or prepared light vinaigrette salad dressing
- 2 cups salad croutons

Toss the vegetables, fruit and vinaigrette together until well combined. Sprinkle with croutons and serve for the perfect blend of sweet and savory, crunchy salad.



Fruity Holiday Salad

EASY SAUSAGE AND CRANBERRY STUFFING

Makes 10-12 servings

- 1 cup dried cranberries
- ½ cup apple juice
- ½ cup chicken broth
- 1 pound uncooked breakfast or mild sausage
- 2 cups diced, fresh celery
- 1 cup diced, fresh onion
- 1 to 1½ cups chopped pecans (optional)
- ¾ cup chicken broth
- 1 10-ounce package herb seasoned cube stuffing

Place dried cranberries, apple juice and ½ cup chicken broth into small glass bowl; microwave uncovered on high for 2 minutes. Stir, and place to the side (allowing liquid to be absorbed by dried berries).

Preheat oven to 350°F. In large, nonstick pot, brown sliced or chopped sausage, breaking up and stirring frequently until browned. Reduce heat to low, add vegetables and sauté until somewhat tender (about 3-4 minutes). Add chopped pecans if desired, soaked cranberries (including liquid), and ¾ cup of chicken broth; stir and remove from heat.

Fold in entire contents of stuffing mix until well combined, and spoon mixture into a 9- by 11-inch baking

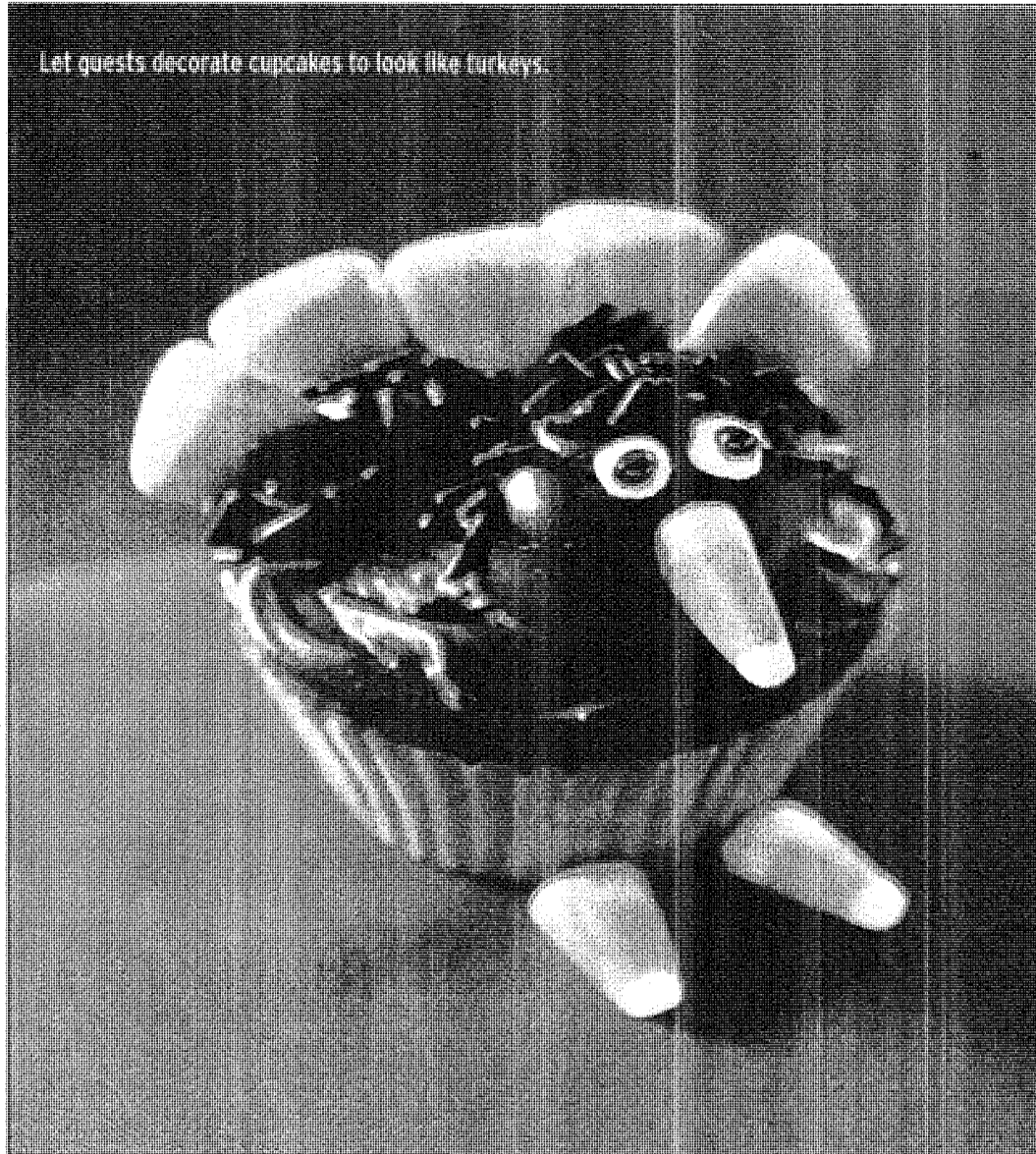


A sausage and cranberry stuffing makes a perfect side to citrus-glazed turkey.

dish that has been prepared with cooking oil spray. Cover baking dish with foil and bake for approximately 20 minutes. Remove foil, return to oven, and bake for an additional 10 minutes uncovered.

Remove from the oven, cool slightly while slicing turkey or other poultry to serve with the meal, and garnish before presentation with ½ cup pecan halves, if desired.

Courtesy of Family Features



Let guests decorate cupcakes to look like turkeys.

Let guests help decorate holiday cupcakes

Sometimes, it's the little turkeys — not the centerpiece feast — that can be tough to manage during Thanksgiving. By giving your younger guests something to do while the main course is being prepared, they will stay busy and feel like they have a role in the big day.

Switch up the typical pumpkin pie dessert and capture their attention by helping them exercise their imagination with these Turkey Cupcakes.

Using a Devil's Food cake mix as the base, it's easy to bake and prepare these cupcakes the day prior to the holiday. Then, on Thanksgiving, guests young and old can customize their turkey cupcakes with candy corn and frosting as feathers, feet and the beak.

After the cupcakes are decorated and ready to be enjoyed, encourage each child to make a hand turkey by tracing the outside of their hand onto a sheet of construction paper and writing one thing they are grateful for on every finger of the outline. Decorate with feathers, wiggly eyes and crayons. With these hand tracings serving as table decorations, ask each child to read aloud the list of things they are grateful for during dinner.

TURKEY CUPCAKES

- 1 box Devil's Food cake mix - water, vegetable oil and eggs called for on cake mix box
- 2 containers (1 pound each) milk chocolate frosting
- 1 tube (4.25 ounces) white decorating icing
- 1 tube (0.68 ounces) brown decorating gel
- Candy corn
- Chocolate candy sprinkles

1. Heat oven to 350°F (325°F for dark or nonstick pans). Make and cool cake as directed on box for 24 cupcakes.

2. Frost cupcakes with frosting. Place remaining frosting in corner of resealable freezer plastic bag. Snip off small corner of bag.

3. To decorate each cupcake, pipe 1-inch mound of frosting on one side of cupcake to look like head of turkey. Make eyes with white decorating icing and brown decorating gel; add candy corn for beak. To make feathers, pipe frosting on opposite side to hold candy corn; place candy corn upright on frosting to look like feathers. Sprinkle chocolate candy sprinkles near head and at base of feathers. If desired, add candy corn at base of cupcake for feet. Store loosely covered.

Prep Time: 30 minutes
Total Time: 1 hour 45 minutes
Makes: 24 cupcakes

Courtesy of Family Features

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